



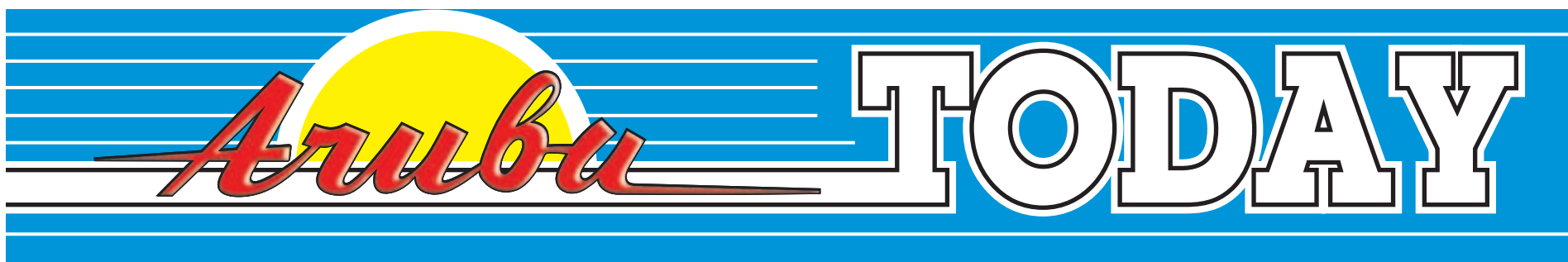
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On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Saturday, April 25, 2015



A coast guard boat patrols the waters surrounding the Statue of Liberty, Friday, April 24, 2015, in New York. The Statue of Liberty was evacuated as a precaution on Friday after a bomb threat, forcing hundreds of tourists to be herded off the island.

(AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

Bomb Threat Causes Evacuation of Statue of Liberty

L. FODERARO

A. BAKER

© 2015 New York Times

NEW YORK - The National Park Service evacuated hundreds of tourists from the Statue of Liberty and Liberty Island on Friday after reports of a bomb threat. Federal authorities and the New York Police Department

conducted security sweeps before giving the island an all clear hours later. The Park Service received a bomb threat by telephone around 11:30 a.m., with the caller threatening to blow up the Statue of Liberty. A law enforcement official described it as a "generalized threat" and "nonspe-

cific in terms of location." While throngs of visitors were directed back to the ferry boats, SWAT teams and bomb-sniffing dogs, based on the island, soon swarmed the area. The Park Service said lockers near the base of the statue were of high interest at one point, because one

of the dogs apparently reacted in a way that gave the officials cause for concern and prompted them to want to inquire further. "No package was found," the official said. It was unclear how many visitors were at the site when the evacuation began. But Daphne Yun, a spokes-

woman for the Park Service in New York, said there was a limit of 375 people per day in the statue's crown and 2,200 people in the pedestal. The agency said all personnel and visitors were safe. Those holding ferry tickets may call Statue Cruises regarding rebooking. □



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Chilean village a ghost town after Calbuco's twin eruptions

LUIS HIDALGO

LUIS HENAO

Associated Press

ENSENADA, Chile (AP)

— Mighty blasts from the looming Calbuco volcano have left Ensenada an ash-drowned ghost town,

abandoned by its 1,500 residents. And officials warned Friday they might have a long stay away.

The volcano, which had been dormant for more than four decades, erupted Wednesday, spewing a

plume of ash about 9 miles (15 kilometers) high. A second, spectacular outburst came early Thursday, with lightning crackling through a dark sky turned reddish orange by the explosion. The head of the National



Plumes of smoke and ash billow from the Calbuco volcano as seen from Puerto Varas, Chile, Friday, April 24, 2015. The volcano, which had been dormant for more than four decades, erupted Wednesday. The head of the National Mining and Geology Service said Friday that the volcano's eruptive process could last weeks and even months.

(AP Photo/Luis Hidalgo)

Mining and Geology Service said Friday that the volcano's eruptive process could last weeks and even months.

"What I can say for certain is that this process is not going to end now," the service's director, Rodrigo Alvarez said. "It's highly likely that we will have other eruptions, maybe not with the same amount of energy, but with activity that can be worrisome."

At the foot of the volcano, Ensenada was covered in thick soot, raising concerns that the ash could contaminate water, cause respiratory illnesses and ground more flights.

Some roofs had collapsed under the weight of the ash.

Just about 10 miles (16 kilometers) from Calbuco's peak, Ensenada is within the official evacuation zone, and most residents complied. But about 30 refused to evacuate be-

cause of worries about their homes and animals.

Ensenada was eerily empty except for a few residents using masks against the ash and the occasional horse or dog roaming its only street.

Daniel Patricio Gonzalez left town with his wife and children, but he returned Thursday night to assess the damage. The roof at the restaurant he manages had caved in.

"This hurts a bit, but there's nothing to do against nature. The important thing is that my family is fine," Gonzalez said.

Authorities worried that mudslides caused by melting snow could endanger nearby communities, but no injuries were reported.

The 6,500 foot (2,000-meter) Calbuco, which last erupted in 1972, lies near the cities of Puerto Varas and Puerto Montt, about 620 miles (1,000 kilometers) south of Santiago. □

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Attorney general bids farewell after 6-year tenure



Attorney General Eric Holder speaks at a farewell gathering at the Justice Department in Washington, Friday, April 24, 2015. Holder was bidding farewell to the Justice Department on Friday after six years as the nation's top law enforcement official. Holder was addressing employees at an afternoon ceremony one day after his chosen successor, Loretta Lynch, was confirmed by the Senate following a months-long delay.

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Eric Holder bid farewell to the U.S. Justice Department on Friday after six years, outlining what he said were his major accomplishments and telling staffers that they helped produce a "golden age" in the department's history. Holder, a former judge and U.S. attorney who took the job in 2009, will

exit the department as the third-longest serving attorney general in U.S. history. He has not publicly announced what he'll be doing next. Though Holder sees civil rights as a defining element of his legacy, his early years largely centered on national security concerns as the country confronted several terror plots, including a failed effort to blow up a Detroit-

bound airliner on Christmas Day in 2009. An emotional Holder, who has served as the nation's top U.S. law enforcement official since the start of the Obama administration, addressed hundreds of lawyers and staff members one day after his successor, Loretta Lynch, was confirmed by the Senate following a months-long delay. "I am proud of you. I'm go-

ing to miss you. I am going to miss this building. I am going to miss this institution. More than anything, I am going to miss you all," Holder told the standing-room-only crowd, many of whom embraced him after he concluded his speech. The event also included a tribute video prepared for the occasion that featured members of Congress, former President Bill Clinton

and Holder's wife, Sharon Malone. In it, Holder described an "emotional attachment" to the department and recounted efforts to protect civil rights, prosecute terror suspects in federal court and change the criminal justice system. Other clips showed President Barack Obama showing Holder with praise on the day Holder announced his departure. □

Over Iranian ships:

Pentagon cites de-escalation of tensions

ROBERT BURNS
AP National Security Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — The prospect of a U.S.-Iranian confrontation over the potential delivery of Iranian weapons to rebels in Yemen has receded, Pentagon officials said Friday. Army Col. Steve Warren, a Pentagon spokesman, said the nine-ship Iranian convoy had reversed course, heading back in the general direction of Iran. Earlier this week, it had been on a course toward the Yemeni port of Aden. "We do not know their future intentions," Warren said, but the ships as of Friday were in the Arabian

Sea, proceeding to the northeast off the coast of Oman. Warren said the prospect of a confrontation had abated. "It's fair to say that this appears to be a de-escalation of some of the tensions that were being discussed earlier in the week," Warren said. The turning point appeared to be the Navy's announcement on Monday that the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt had departed its usual position in the Persian Gulf and was to join other U.S. forces conducting maritime security operations in the Arabian

Sea and the Gulf of Aden off Yemen's coast. The Navy said the guided-missile cruiser USS Normandy was escorting the carrier. That triggered speculation that the U.S. might intercede to stop the Iranian cargo ships from entering a Yemeni port. But it never reached that point. The Roosevelt never got as far south as the Gulf of Aden or even came close to the waters off Yemen, and U.S. officials said there never was any communication between U.S. ships and the Iranian convoy about what type of cargo was being transported. □

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No trade breakthrough expected with Japan during Abe visit

WASHINGTON (AP) — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to Washington next week comes amid heightened attention in Congress to an Asia-Pacific trade deal that has created a deep rift between President Barack Obama and members of his Democratic Party and whose central feature is liberalized commerce between the U.S. and Japan. White House officials said Friday that Obama and Abe are not expected to announce a final agreement on trade talks between the two nations. Officials said negotiators have made progress, but differences remain over how to reduce U.S. auto tariffs and Japanese barriers on U.S.

agriculture products. Abe's official visit to Washington on Tuesday will include a state dinner with about 300 guests and an address to a joint meeting of Congress, the first by a Japanese leader. New security arrangements between the U.S. and Japan are a top agenda item for the two leaders as Abe seeks to strengthen Japan's defense capabilities. Given that it's the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, Abe is also facing some pressure to address Japanese army behavior against Korea and China during the war. The White House is especially eager for Abe to mend fences with South Korea. And this week, 25 U.S. lawmakers



President Barack Obama shakes hands with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the Akasaka State Guest House in Tokyo. Abe's visit to Washington next week comes amid heightened attention in Congress to an Asia-Pacific trade deal that has created a deep rift between President Barack Obama and members of his Democratic Party and whose central feature is liberalized commerce between the U.S. and Japan.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

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urged Abe "to formally reaffirm and validate" apologies made by his predecessors for Japanese wartime aggression. Yet even without prospects for a breakthrough on trade, the negotiations between the U.S. and Japan are likely to take precedence as Congress moves to give Obama so-called fast-track authority to negotiate international trade deals. House and Senate committees both approved legislation that would set standards for any trade deal but would permit Congress only to approve or reject, but not amend, any final agreement. Obama wants such authority to complete a 12-nation Pacific rim agreement. The U.S. and Japan are the two largest economies in those negotiations, which means that resolving their differences would go far in approaching a broader deal. Earlier this week, Japan's ambassador to the U.S.,

Kenichiro Sasae, said the Japan-U.S. negotiations were in the "final stage" but stopped short of declaring an agreement next week. Caroline Atkinson, White House deputy national security adviser for international economics, said on Friday negotiators had made substantial progress, but "we do not expect any announcement of a final deal. We still have some work to do." Abe arrives in the U.S. just as Obama is engaged in a fierce fight with liberals and organized labor, who oppose giving him trade promotion authority and who are suspicious about trade deals because they fear job losses. A coalition of Democrats and Republicans have also tried, so far unsuccessfully, to require that any trade deal address currency manipulation, amid concern that Japan has adjusted the yen to give an advantage to its exports. □



Baltimore protesters vow huge rally over black man's death

AMANDA LEE MYERS
TOM FOREMAN Jr.
Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — After a week of protests, people angry over the unexplained death of an African-American man in police custody promised their biggest march Saturday, when they would try to "shut down" the city. Freddie Gray's arrest and death from a mysterious spinal injury have sparked marches and rallies by demonstrators who say police mistreat African-Americans in Baltimore and across America. A fierce national debate has been stoked by the deaths of unarmed black men in Ferguson, Missouri, and New York City. The mayor of Baltimore thanked protesters for being peaceful so far and said the police commissioner assured her the investigation into Gray's death is moving as quickly as possible. She expects the results to



Members of the Baltimore Police Department stand guard outside the department's Western District police station during a protest for Freddie Gray, Thursday, April 23, 2015, in Baltimore. Gray died from spinal injuries about a week after he was arrested and transported in a police van. (AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

be turned over to prosecutors in a week. They will decide whether any criminal charges will be filed. "I will not deny we have had a very long and com-

plicated history on issues such as these," Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake said Friday. "But it's important to remember that we have an equally long his-

tory of peaceful and legal protest." Gray was arrested April 12 after he made eye contact with officers and ran away, police said. Officers held him down, hand-

cuffed him and loaded him into a police van. While inside, he became irate and leg cuffs were put on him, police have said. Gray was not buckled with a seat belt, a violation of the police department's policy. He asked for medical help several times and after a 30-minute ride, paramedics were called. At some point — either during his arrest or inside the van — he suffered a spinal injury. Authorities have not explained how or when it occurred. Six officers have been suspended with pay during the investigation. Gray was in the hospital for a week. He died Sunday. "I still want to know why none of the officers called for immediate medical assistance despite Mr. Gray's sapient pleas," the mayor said. The leader of a group of local ministers called Friday on Police Commissioner Anthony Batts to resign immediately.



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Oil, gas, power, prices are big themes from energy meeting

JONATHAN FAHEY

AP Energy Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — In the year since the energy industry last gathered in for its big annual confab in Houston, prices for oil and natural gas took a dive that few, if anyone, saw coming.

A chastened parade of energy executives, analysts, academics and government officials from several countries delivered speeches and participated in panels as part of IHS's CERAWEEK energy conference, worrying over prices and making a

profit, and speculating on what it could all mean for economies and consumers around the world.

Speaker after speaker here said that prices for oil, gasoline and diesel will remain far below where they had been for much of this decade.

"Lower for longer," is how BP CEO Bob Dudley described it. Exxon CEO Rex Tillerson said: "This is going to be with us for a while."

IHS's Kurt Barrow expects oil prices to maybe climb back to \$65 a barrel by the end of the year. Adam Si-



Gas prices were under two dollars a gallon are seen at a service station in Leonia, N.J. In 2015, natural gas has fallen even further than oil as U.S. drillers have been producing enormous amounts of gas and mild winter weather kept demand relatively low.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

eminski, administrator of the U.S. Energy Information Administration, expects oil to average \$60 this year. The average price for U.S. oil topped \$90 from 2011 through 2014.

Natural gas has fallen even further than oil as U.S. drillers have been producing enormous amounts of gas and mild winter weather kept demand relatively low.

The oil and gas executives delivered this news grimly, but people who use their products are likely to be delighted. Low natural gas prices mean lower heating costs for the half of U.S. households that use natural gas for heat, and they also translate directly to lower electricity prices in many areas. And U.S. households will save about \$700 this year on lower gasoline expenses, according to government estimates. As of Friday, a gallon of regular

in the U.S. averaged \$2.51, compared with \$3.69 a year ago.

"There is some really good news for consumers," Sie-
eminski said.

The U.S. oil industry is hurting but its financial backers haven't panicked.

Often, oil and gas prices decline because of a weak economy. This time the economy is growing. Bankers and investors are flush with cash, and appear willing to wait out the low prices to benefit from a turnaround.

This may have a perverse effect, however. Companies will have the resources to get right back to work as soon as prices rise, and a quick rise in production could stanch a large increase in oil prices.

Resilient stock prices also mean that smaller, weaker companies are not cheap enough for bigger, stronger players to buy.

The CEOs of BP, Total and the pipeline company Kinder Morgan all said they thought company valuations were still too high, but could fall if oil and gas prices stay low for another year or two.

"We certainly have the firepower and the interest," said Kinder Morgan CEO Richard Kinder.

Complaints about government rules and regulations were especially shrill this year, because many cost companies money that is suddenly in short supply. Oil companies took particular aim at the 1970s-era ban on crude oil exports.

U.S. crude oil is selling for much lower prices than crude elsewhere in the world — and crimping producers' revenue — in part because it can't be exported. They want the ban to be lifted, arguing that lower U.S. crude prices don't translate to lower fuel prices for consumers. That's because exports of gasoline, diesel and jet fuel are not restricted so they fetch prices based on the global price of crude.

Coal and power companies complained about coming carbon dioxide restrictions, renewable energy companies complained about uncertain subsidies, and everyone complained about the expense and time required to acquire permits needed for new projects.

The big issue for the electric power industry is a coming EPA rule that will force them to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide. □

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US Financial Front:

Durable goods orders up, but business investment falls again



An employee walks past a display of appliances at a Home Depot in Robinson Township, Pa. Orders for durable goods rebounded 4 percent in March after having fallen 1.4 percent in February, the Commerce Department reported Friday, April 24, 2015. The result was led by a big jump in demand for commercial aircraft. Outside of the transportation category, orders were down for a sixth straight month.

(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Purchases of long-lasting man-

ufactured goods in March jumped by the largest amount in eight months, but a closer look at the details reveals that businesses kept pruning their investment plans in the face of a softening U.S. economy. Orders to factories for durable goods rebounded 4 percent in March after a 1.4 percent decline in February, the Commerce Department reported Friday. The result was led by a big jump in demand for commercial aircraft. Outside of the transportation category, however, orders fell for a sixth straight month. More worrying was a 0.5 percent drop in demand in a key category that serves as a proxy for future business investment. The retreat fol-

lowed a 2.2 percent drop in February and marked the seven straight monthly decline. "The report was yet another false positive that looks good in the headline but is eroding away underneath," said Michael Montgomery, U.S. economist with IHS Global Insight. U.S. manufacturers have been hurt by a labor dispute at West Coast ports that disrupted supply chains in the early part of the year. They were also hit with winter weather in many parts of the country that was harsh enough to disrupt production. Moreover, manufacturers have been grappling with a sharp rise in the value of the dollar, which cuts into exports by making U.S.

goods more expensive overseas. A stronger dollar also makes imports cheaper and more competitive in the United States. Demand for commercial aircraft, a volatile category, jumped 30.6 percent in March after a 2.2 percent decline in February. Orders for motor vehicles rose 5.4 percent, and the overall transportation category expanded 13.5 percent. Excluding transportation, however, the weakness was widespread with orders down 0.2 percent. Demand for primary metals such as steel edged down 0.2 percent, while orders for machinery dropped 1.5 percent. Demand for communications equipment fell 5.3 percent. □

Ford to lay off 700 workers due to a slowdown in sales

DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Ford Motor Co. said Thursday it's laying off 700 workers at a Michigan assembly plant because of slow sales of the small cars and hybrids it makes.

The Michigan Assembly Plant, in the Detroit suburb of Wayne, will move from three shifts to two starting June 22, spokeswoman Kristina Adamski said. The plant, which makes the Ford Focus and C-Max hybrid, has been operating on three shifts since 2012. The plant is the same one President Barack Obama visited in January to hail the resurgent U.S. auto industry. But even during that visit, the plant was temporarily shut down to prevent overproduction of the slow-selling cars. The plant also makes electric versions of

the Focus and C-Max. It's the first time since 2009 that Ford has cut a shift at a U.S. plant. Automakers have been in growth mode since the recession, adding thousands of workers to meet strong U.S. demand for new cars. Ford has added 14,000 workers to its U.S. plants over the last four years. But as annual sales near their historic peak of 17 million, automakers aren't going to keep seeing the same big sales gains they enjoyed coming out of the recession. Lower gas prices also hurt sales of the fuel-efficient Focus and C-Max. Focus sales fell 6 percent last year, while C-Max sales dropped 22 percent. Ford says 675 assembly line workers and 25 salaried workers are affected. They will be laid off in three waves between June and September. □

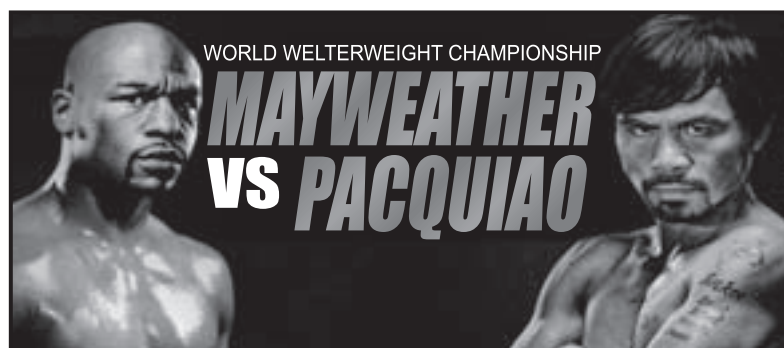
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JOHN ROGERS
Associated Press

POMONA, California (AP)

— A bachelor's in beer? A master's in malt? Not quite. But these days some U.S. colleges are teaching students to make beer as part of their studies.

When California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, fired up its gleaming new stainless steel brewery in December, it joined a small-but-growing number of colleges instructing students on how to produce high-quality craft beers. At the same time, it took the movement a step beyond — kegging the results of their labors and selling it on campus.

"To make the beer here and sell the beer here and have a cafe and have an educational component, we're the first to have put all those pieces together," Aaron Neilson, director of dining services for the Cal Poly Foundation, said over a lunch of pizza and — of course — beer at the school's new Innovation Brew Works.

A few feet away, senior chemistry major Stephen Moser was in the back room of this former cam-

drink responsibly.

"Right now my goal is to work for an established craft brewer," said Moser,



Koby Harris, brewery production manager, left, and Sandra Cain, assistant director of retail operations, present their freshly brewed beers at Innovation Brew Works in the California State Polytechnic University, Pomona in Pomona, Calif. (AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

pus bookstore, brewing up a batch of ale. In a few weeks his work will end up in the glasses of patrons in the brew works' cafe, where signs at the front door remind people to

who graduates in June. "I really want to do small batch projects, like creating new and interesting brews."

Although Cal Poly officials say theirs is the only

college in the country to make its own beer and sell it on campus, that could soon change. Colorado State University expects to begin selling its micro-brewed beer at a campus pub later this year, said Jim Francis, director of the school's Beverage Business Institute.

Students at the University of Wisconsin, Madison; Oregon State University; and other campuses around the country also make beer on campus.

A pioneer in the process is the University of California, Davis, where students have been brewing beer since the makers of Lucky Lager built them a micro-brewery in 1959. Like the other campuses, however, Davis doesn't sell beer and has no plans to. Charlie Bamforth, the university's Anheuser-Busch endowed professor of brewing science, believes getting into the retail end of things would be a distraction for him and his students.

Asked what happens to his students' creations, his

gives a reply guaranteed to send a shiver down any serious beer drinker's spine: "It all goes down the drain."

Well, almost all.

Students studying for bachelor's and master's degrees in fermentation do have to taste each batch to ensure what they have produced is not what Bamforth, a former Bass Ale executive, would dismiss as "absolute swill." There's also an annual competition to determine the school's best brewmaster.

What's driving the interest in college brewing, beer makers say, is the increased fascination with craft beers. They note that the number of U.S. breweries has tripled over the past 10 years to about 3,000. That counts everything from those operated by industry giants to small regional producers.

"A lot of young people, 30 and under, consider themselves beer geeks," said Francis, whose school offers a degree in fermentation science. □

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Italian authorities: Terror suspects planned Vatican attack

COLLEEN BARRY
Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — Islamic extremists suspected in a bomb attack in a Pakistani market that killed more than 100 people had also planned an attack against the Vatican in 2010 that was never carried out, an Italian prosecutor said Friday. The alleged foiled plot, known to authorities for years, was revealed as prosecutors announced the results of a decade-long investigation into an Italy-based terror network that aimed to stop Pakistan's actions against the Taliban. Police arrested nine suspects related to the probe Friday throughout Italy. Another nine were being sought, three of whom were believed to still be in the country.

Wiretaps collected as part of the investigation gave "signals of some preparation for a possible attack" at the Vatican, prosecutor Mauro Mura told a news conference in Cagliari, Sardinia. That included the arrival in Rome of a Pakistani suicide bomber, Mura said. The Pakistani eventually left Italy, Mura said, without explaining why. The Italian news agency ANSA reported that there were two suicide bombers and that they were warned off by their associates in Italy when police began executing search warrants in the wider investigation of the Italy-based Islamic terror network.

The Vatican downplayed the significance of the alleged plot.

"From what it appears, this concerns a hypothesis that dates from 2010 which didn't occur. It has therefore no relevance today and no reason for particular concern," said the Rev. Federico Lombardi, the

Vatican spokesman.

At the time of the suspected plot to bomb the Vatican, Pope Benedict XVI was still reeling from the effects in the Muslim world of a 2006 speech in Regensburg, Germany, in which he quoted a Byzantine emperor who characterized some of the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad as "evil and inhuman," particularly "his command to spread by the sword the faith."

While relations with the Muslim world were eventually repaired, tensions flared again in 2011 when Cairo's al-Azhar institute, the pre-eminent theological school of Sunni Islam, suspended interfaith talks with the Vatican after Benedict called for greater protections for Egypt's minority Christians. More recently, Italian officials have made clear they take seriously the threat of the Islamic State group to conquer Rome and the seat of Christianity. Security has been beefed up at the Vatican and the head of the Swiss Guards has said they are ready but that they have no information about an imminent threat. Pope Francis himself has said he realizes he may be a target but that he fears mostly for the innocent crowds who come to see him every time he's in public.

"We are all exposed and we are all afraid," said the Vatican secretary of state, Pietro Parolin. "But the pope is very calm for this, it's enough to watch him meeting people with great clarity and serenity."

The investigation was launched in 2005, but Mura said it was slowed when news of the investigation leaked to the media, alerting the suspects that they were being watched. He

also said the process of translating the wiretaps was painstaking. Authorities said some of

five of the suspects were responsible for plotting "numerous bloody acts of terrorism in Pakistan," in-

cluding the October 2009 explosion in a market in Peshawar in which more than 100 people died. □ That



Italian police officers arrest a suspect in Olbia, Italy, Friday, April 24, 2015. Islamic extremists suspected in a bomb attack in a Pakistani market that killed more than 100 people had also planned an attack against the Vatican in 2010 that was never carried out, an Italian prosecutor said Friday. (AP Photo/Antonio Satta)

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Ex-Yemeni president tells Shiite allies to withdraw

AHMED AL-HAJ
Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — Ousted Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh called upon his Shiite rebel allies to withdraw from occupied cities Friday as a United Nations report concluded that more than 500 civilians, including 115 children, have been killed since the start of a month-long Saudi-led airstrike campaign targeting the rebel forces. A combined force of Shiite rebels, known as Houthis, and military troops loyal to

Saleh, took over the capital, Sanaa, last fall. They eventually forced Yemen's Western-backed President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi to flee the capital. When Hadi settled in the southern city of Aden, the rebel alliance began advancing southward and Hadi eventually fled the country. A coalition of countries led by Saudi Arabia began conducting airstrikes against rebel positions on March 26. In a statement broadcast Friday on his Yemen TV network, Saleh referred

to his Houthi allies by their political name, Ansar Allah, and said, "I call upon Ansar Allah to accept the Security Council resolutions and implement them," in return for an end to the Saudi-led coalition offensive. He added that Yemeni blood "has been shed for no reason." Saleh made a veiled accusation that Hadi was allied with the country's active and dangerous Al-Qaida branch, saying that "all militias, Al-Qaida, and armed men affiliated to Hadi should withdraw from

all provinces." He also called for a Saudi-Yemeni peace talks. The battle in the Arab world's poorest country pits the Iranian-backed Houthis and Saleh's forces against the Saudi-led coalition and Hadi. Western governments and the Sunni Arab countries in the coalition say the Houthis are being armed by Shiite powerhouse Iran. Tehran and the rebels deny that, insisting that the Islamic Republic has only provided political and humanitarian support.

Meanwhile, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights spokesman Rupert Colville said 551 civilians have been killed and 1,185 civilians injured between March 26 and April 22. The deaths, the agency said, resulted from both airstrikes and armed conflict on the ground between the Shiite rebels and their allies on one side and tribesmen and militias on the other. The two sides have been engaged in heavy battles in several cities, particularly in the south. □

Iraqi general, 3 officers killed in Islamic State ambush

QASSIM ZAHRA
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Fighters from the Islamic State group ambushed an Iraqi army convoy on Friday with a bulldozer packed with explosives, killing the commander of the Iraqi 1st Division and three of his staff officers north of Fallujah, said military officials. The suicide bomber attacked the convoy of Humvees and then militants opened fire, killing Brig. Gen. Hassan Abbas



Toufan, a colonel and two lieutenant colonels in the Nadhem al-Taqseem region, said a member of the division and an intelligence officer. There was no initial count on the number of soldiers killed in the attack. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the press. The attack represents a setback for the Iraqi army which is embroiled in a fierce battle to reconquer western Anbar province, which has

been under the control of the extremist Islamic State group for the past year. Fighting has been focused on the provincial capital of Ramadi, where the government had been making slow progress. Earlier on Friday, the army had recaptured the important al-Houz bridge over the Euphrates in western Ramadi, which had served as a primary supply route for the militants, according to police Col. Mahdi Abbas. □

Powerful former Syrian army general dies in hospital

SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Rostom Ghazali, the Syrian general once considered the most powerful man in Lebanon and a key suspect in the assassination of former Lebanese prime minister Rafik Hariri, has died in a hospital in the capital Damascus, a Syrian activist and local media reported on Friday. Ghazali, in his early 60s, was once head of his military's powerful political security branch and one of Syrian President Bashar Assad's

most trusted generals. There was no official government comment and the circumstances of his death remain unclear. Director of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights Rami Abdurrahman said Ghazali died nearly two months after he was admitted with a head injury. Abdurrahman said Ghazali had been clinically dead for weeks, quoting informed medical officials in the hospital. The Beirut-based Al-Mayadeen TV, which has access

to Syrian officials, and other Lebanese TV stations also reported Ghazali's death, quoting officials. Reports at the time of Ghazali's injury said he was beaten by the bodyguards of another Syrian general, in a dramatic escalation of a political dispute. The reports said the disagreement between the two generals started after Ghazali's men were not allowed to play a bigger role in a government offensive against opposition fighters battling the government.

Lebanese media reported that both Ghazali and his rival general were sacked. Reshuffles in Syria's security and military apparatuses are generally not made public. Ghazali, a Sunni Muslim from the southern village of Qarfa, rose in the military to become the intelligence chief in Lebanon in 2002, replacing long-serving general Ghazi Kenaan who became Interior Minister. Ghazali kept the post until 2005 when Syrian forces had to withdraw from the

tiny Arab country, ending nearly three decades of military presence following massive anti-Syrian protests after Hariri's February 2005 assassination. A U.N. probe later that year concluded that high-ranking Syrian and Lebanese security officials, including Ghazali, plotted Hariri's assassination. A U.N.-backed tribunal is currently trying five Hezbollah members in absentia over the killing. Both Damascus and Hezbollah have strongly denied involvement. □



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Armenia marks centennial of killing of 1.5 million



From left, French President Francois Hollande, Rita Sarkisian, her husband Armenia's President Serzh Sargsyan, Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic, Cypriot President Nikos Anastasiadis, and Russian President Vladimir Putin attend a memorial service at the Tsitsernakaberd Armenian Genocide memorial complex in Yerevan, Armenia, Friday, April 24, 2015. On Friday, Armenians mark the centenary of what historians estimate to be the slaughter of up to 1.5 million Armenians by Ottoman Turks, an event widely viewed by scholars as genocide. Turkey, however, denies the deaths constituted genocide and says the death toll has been inflated.

(Vahan Stepanyan/PAN Photo via AP)

AVET DEMOURIAN
Associated Press

YEREVAN, Armenia (AP)

— The presidents of Russia and France joined other leaders Friday at ceremonies commemorating the massacre of Armenians a century ago by Ottoman Turks, an event which still stirs bitter feelings as both sides argue over whether to call it genocide.

The annual April 24 commemorations mark the day when some 250 Armenian intellectuals were rounded up in what is regarded as the first step of the massacre. An estimated 1.5 million died in the slaughters, deportations and forced marches that began in 1915 as Ottoman officials worried that the Christian Armenians would side with Russia, its enemy in World War I.

The event is widely viewed by historians as genocide but modern Turkey, the successor to the Ottoman Empire, vehemently rejects the charge. It says that the toll has been inflated, and

that those killed were victims of civil war and unrest. On the eve of the centennial, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan insisted that his nation's ancestors never committed genocide.

The observances ended Friday night with a torchlight parade by an estimated 30,000 people from the capital's central square to the hilltop complex memorializing the deaths. Participants started the march by burning a Turkish flag. Russian President Vladimir Putin, French President Francois Hollande and other dignitaries assembled in the morning at the memorial complex, called Tsitsernakaberd, overlooking the capital, Yerevan.

Each leader walked along the memorial with a single yellow rose and put it into the center of a wreath resembling a forget-me-not, a flower chosen as the symbol of the commemoration.

"We will never forget the tragedy that your people

went through," Hollande said.

France is home to a sizeable Armenian community. Among the French Armenians at Yerevan was 90-year-old singer Charles Aznavour, who was born in Paris to a family of massacre survivors.

For many Armenians, the massacre anniversary is not only a moment of grief but also a reminder of the resilience of the nation.

"We feel a big pain today, historic pain but at the same time we feel a big historic strength," Nadezhda Antonyan, a teacher from Yerevan said on the sidelines of the ceremony. "We should not only survive but we must live, be strong and build our statehood."

Putin used his speech to warn of the dangers of nationalism as well as "Russo-phobia" in a clear dig at the West-leaning government in Ukraine.

Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Yalcin Akdogan criticized Putin's participation, saying "They should look at their own past first ... the cruelties, the massacres, the genocides they have committed against their own people."

Earlier this month, Turkey recalled its ambassadors to Vienna and the Vatican after Austria and Pope Francis described the killings as genocide. The European Parliament has also triggered Turkey's ire by passing a non-binding resolution to commemorate "the centenary of the

Armenian genocide."

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan expressed hope that recent steps to recognize the massacre as genocide will help "dispel the darkness of 100 years of denial."

Armenians and Turks planned to march in Istanbul's main square to remember the Armenian intellectuals who were rounded up in the city 100 years ago and to urge the government to recognize genocide. A small nationalist group planned a protest denouncing the genocide accusations.

Sargsyan welcomed the rally in Taksim Square to honor the dead, calling them "strong people who are doing an important thing for their motherland." □



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Professional liars are undermining justice in Colombia

JACOBO GARCIA

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) —

Sen. Luis Fernando Velasco's life began to unravel in 2008 when a lawyer appeared before prosecutors and accused him of conspiring with leftist rebels to coerce voters to support him.

His good name tarnished, Velasco was forced to temporarily abandon his Senate seat and was behind bars when his father suffered a heart attack. After four months in jail, prosecutors determined it was all a set up and his accusers had been paid by his political enemies to testify against him. Velasco was set free, and the lawyer and his accusers were arrested.

The senator's ordeal highlights a spreading problem undermining trust in Colombia's criminal justice system: professional liars paid and often groomed by corrupt lawyers to testify in court. Authorities have taken to calling it the "cartel of false witnesses," with paid liars sometimes testifying in dozens of cases at a time, parading from court-



Colombia's Senator Luis Fernando Velasco talks to the press outside Congress in Bogota, Colombia, Thursday, April 23, 2015. Velasco was forced to temporarily abandon his Senate seat and was behind bars when his father suffered a heart attack. After four months in jail, prosecutors determined it was all a set up and his accusers had been paid by his political enemies to testify against him. Velasco was set free, and the lawyer and his accusers were arrested.

(AP Photo/Fernando Vergara)

room to courtroom.

So entrenched is the problem, the country's chief prosecutor set up a special task force two years ago to comb over the evidence in 3,000 cases where perjury is suspected. So far, around 100 cases have been overturned.

The latest reversal took place this week, when Colombia's Supreme Court absolved TV anchor Angelica Ramirez, who spent three years in jail after her ex-husband, with the testimony of a demobilized guerrilla, falsely accused her of plotting terrorist acts

with the rebels.

"The false witnesses are a cancer on the justice system," Ramirez told The Associated Press, recounting how she was abused by other prisoners. "My life was destroyed."

Concern about the integrity of Colombia's courts comes at a sensitive time for the government, which is trying to negotiate peace with leftist rebels. Key to the two-year-old talks is entrusting judges to ferret out the truth in thousands of killings, kidnappings and war crimes involving rebels as well as military units. If faith in the courts is lost, the peace process would be at risk.

"If a peace deal is reached, common criminals will try to present themselves as guerrillas to win benefits," said Luis Gustavo Moreno, author of a new book on the phenomenon called "The False Witness." "How will they do it? By accusing politicians of being their bosses."

Legal experts trace the false-witness phenomenon to a previous peace accord that brought the surrender a decade ago of 30,000 paramilitary fighters. Under a 2005 legal framework for the demobilization, former combatants faced a maximum of eight years

in jail for battlefield crimes. But sentences could be sharply reduced if they implicated higher-ups or officials, creating a strong incentive to provide false testimony.

Testimony by former combatants led prosecutors to open investigations into more than 100 congressmen for allegedly assisting the right-wing militias. Only about a third of those lawmakers were convicted.

The problem has now spread beyond politics, with false witnesses offering carefully prepared "eye-witness accounts" in domestic disputes and murder trials for anywhere between \$2,000 and \$20,000, depending on a client's ability to pay and the victim's profile, said Amanda Cetina, a member of the chief prosecutor's special unit. "The natural place for recruitment (of false witnesses) is inside the jails," Cetina said.

While jailhouse confessions are considered unreliable in many countries, Colombian prosecutors attribute great value on the testimony of prison snitches because criminality is so widespread but few capos are ever punished. It is one of their few effective tools to get a conviction.

False witnesses are coached by lawyers, in some cases even taking acting classes so they don't misspeak on the stand, Moreno says.

"Witnesses learn to lie in court as if they were reciting a recipe book," he said. Perhaps the best-known reversal because of perjury is that of politician Sigifredo Lopez. He was kidnapped in 2002, along with 11 other regional lawmakers, when rebels raided the state legislature in the city of Cali. Lopez was released in 2009, escaping the fate of his fellow captives who the government says were killed by the rebels.

But Lopez's freedom was short lived. Three years later, he was detained and accused by prosecutors of complicity with the rebels in the abduction and slaying of his colleagues. □





This Monday: Aruba Celebrates Kings Day!

ORANJESTAD - An official government ceremony will be held in honor of the birthday of King Willem Alexander in downtown Oranjestad on Monday, April 27, 2015. In addition to this official government ceremony,

the island will host numerous sporting events and family-friendly celebrations all across the island. Sports competitions, kite flying contests, and fun-filled activities will be held at various sites including community centers and sports

parks. Shopping plazas, including The Renaissance Mall, Paseo Herencia, Palm Beach Plaza, South Beach Plaza, Arawak Garden and of course the downtown in general will also host special events and features in honor of the celebration! □

SUPPORT OUR YOUTH! Arubian Dancers selected to perform at Disney World



BUBALI - Club di Movimiento is a dance school located at Bubali, Noord directed by Samanta Westera-Juppa. We are proud to announce that our students have been accepted and invited to perform and to attend workshops in the Disney Performing on Stage Dance Program in Orlando, Florida from October 2nd to October 5th, 2015. Club di Movimiento has been delivering high quality dance training programs, cultural exchange programs, national as well as international workshops and performing opportunities to CDM students. Club di Movimiento is more than just great dancing,

they reinforce dynamic, flexible and value-based training in life skills and leadership where students develop their fullest potential and become responsible citizens in the world. On Monday, April 27th, CDM students will organize a Car Wash to raise funds for their Disney performance and workshops. The Car Wash will be held from 9.30 am – 3.00 pm at Colegio Felipe B. Tromp Basis School. Tickets are Afl. 15.00 each. We invite the whole community of Aruba to consider helping our students realize their dream of performing on stage at Disney World this October. □



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AAA, Dutch Marines, IMSAN hold Joint Emergency Response Exercise



--Theme of the exercise:
"Simulated shooting with severely wounded victims at the airport."

ORANJESTAD - On Thursday, April 23, 2015 the Dutch Marine Force, stationed in Aruba, in cooperation with Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) and IMSAN, held an Emergency-response training on the Airport Premises. The scenario for the training, which initiated at 09:00

hours in the Airport Public Parking area and lasted for about an hour, involved an active shooter incident, in which there were several (severely) wounded victims. These victims were initially treated by Dutch Marine Force Medical Staff with assistance of AAA's ERT Team. At a later stage IMSAN was called in and proceeded with the Medical response.

Aruba Police Force, Aru-



ba and US Customs, Crisis Management Team Aruba, IBSL and several other entities participated in the training as observers.

This joint exercise was aimed at testing Response time, Communication and Collaboration amongst the participating entities. The objective of the Exercise was to review the Emergency procedures, test the entities' response and actions and to make necessary improvements based on the outcome and results.

AAA's Director of Security and Regulatory Compliance, Angeline Flemming, indicated that both the Dutch Marines as well as AAA conduct frequent trainings and have intensified the mutual cooperation in the past year, in order to further improve Emergency preparedness



and response at Aruba's Airport.

According to Flemming, these practice drills are fundamental in developing proper communication and coordination procedures and are vital to

ensuring effective emergency response tactics, and especially important for large public facilities as an Airport.

The pictures illustrate highlights of the exercise held at the airport. □

Parrot lost in area of Alto Vista

ALTO VISTA - An African Grey parrot, a family pet for many years, became free from his cage and carried on recent high winds. He was last spotted in the area of Alto Vista, Sabana Liber.

He is known as "Rico" and is typical of an African Grey, with black beak, grey body feathers and red tail feathers. He can be identified by a leg band and is vocal, speaking various phrases. Please help bring Rico home, by reporting any information on a lost bird as soon as is possible. Please



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Saturday Night:

Grand Cafe Tropical celebrating its 20th Anniversary!

ORANJESTAD - Way back, in 1995, a cozy place called "Grand Cafe Tropical" opened their doors in the Renaissance Market place. Soon it was discovered that the music that was played seemed far more important than the food that was being served.

So, the move from restaurant to cafe was made. Since this was a new concept, locals really appreciated it and started making it their hang out.

In their second year in business the Dutch owners introduced Salsa lessons to the island. This was a big hit. After that followed Karaoke Night and at the moment they offer Tango lessons.

Besides being a cafe, "Grand Cafe Tropical" also hosts private parties like



weddings, birthdays etc. Every Friday from 10pm till 2am you will be able to dance to the sounds of live music.

This Saturday "Grand Cafe Tropical" will be celebrat-

ing their 20th anniversary with lots of music provided by the musicians that performed there over the last 20 years. Let's go back in time, pass by and enjoy the music! □

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The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton Invites You For Fight Night!

PALM BEACH - On May 2nd, in what everyone believes will be the biggest boxing event of all time, Mayweather and Pacquiao will finally square off.

Yes, the bout that looms as one of the most anticipated in boxing history is finally on. For more than five years sports fans have clamored for a summit meeting between the two best fighters in the world, and after various failed negotiations, and a protracted and difficult effort to make the fight in recent months, they will get it on May 2nd to unify the fighters' Welterweight world titles at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

The showdown is a lock to be the richest in boxing history and will, barring a draw, settle the issue that has been debated for years: "Who is the No.1 fighter in boxing and who is the king of this era?"

The fighters and their teams will be primed to excel. For years, Mayweather and Pacquiao have been the two best fighters in the world, fighting in the same weight class but having not faced each other despite constant public demand. Both have been considered the pound-for-pound king at various times.



Floyd "Money" Mayweather (won 47, lost 0 and 26Kos) vs. Pacquiao (won 57, lost 5 and 38Kos).

May 2nd will be a signature moment for the sport of boxing. The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton is thrilled to be part of this spectacular event, and have signed an exclusivity contract

with the Local News Channel "ATV" for Mr. Ricardo "Cadochi" Kock and his team to broadcast the fight live from our Exclusive Ballroom in a Gala Event that together with the Casino will make this moment truly "Las Vegas Style". Guest will have the opportunity to come and enjoy the

fight with us in an exclusive event that will start at 9pm. The entrance fee will be \$75 per person and will included Premium Bar and Hors D' Oeuvres - the after party will be at our Casino. Tickets will be selling at our Casino Cage, and bets will be on at our Betting Kiosk as well.□

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood! *Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"*



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



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Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.



Boo Weekley reacts after missing a putt on the 11th hole during the first round of the Zurich Classic PGA golf tournament, Thursday, April 23, 2015, in Avondale, La.
Associated Press

Swafford, Weekley atop Zurich Classic leaderboard

BRETT MARTEL

AP Sports Writer

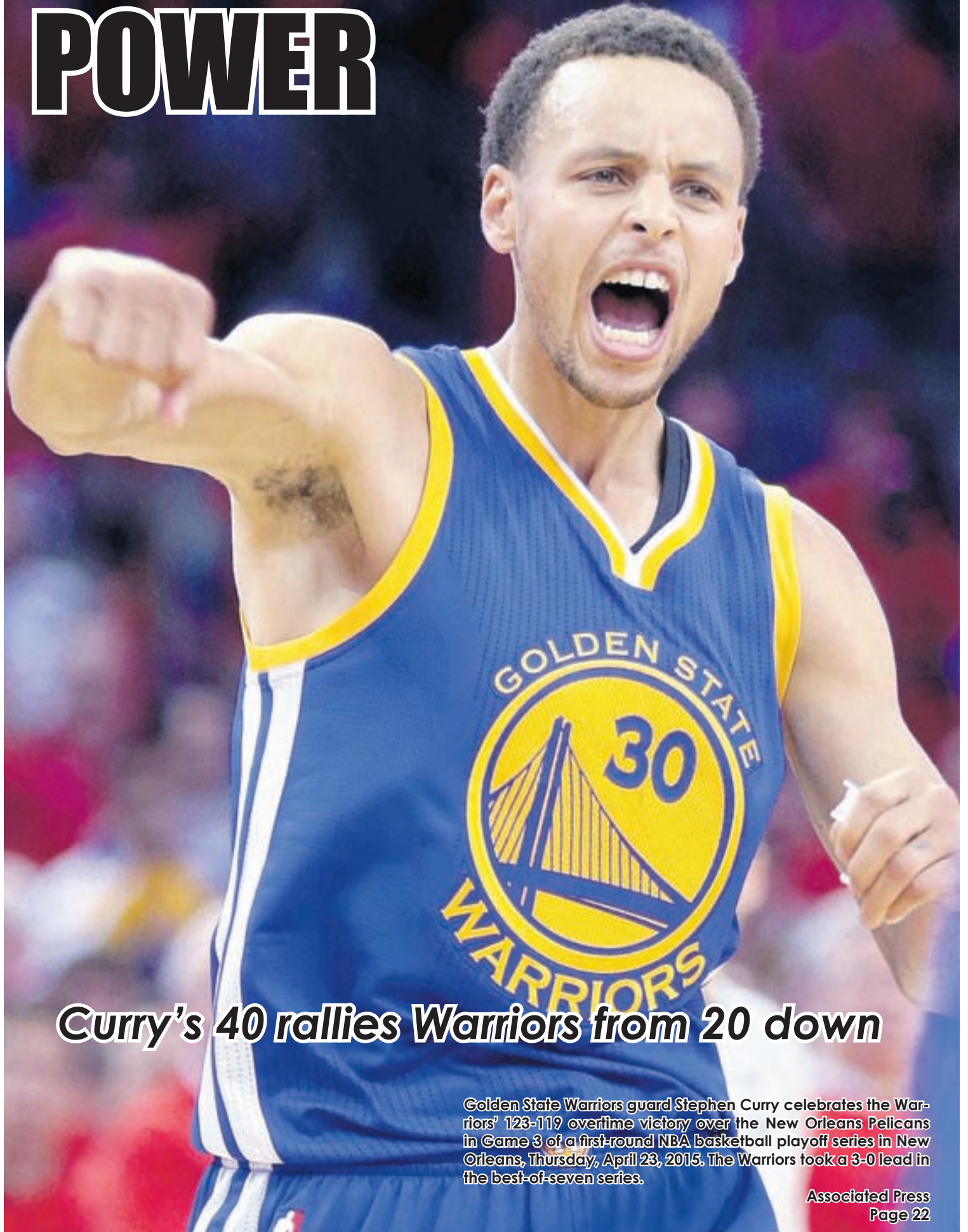
AVONDALE, La. (AP) -- Hudson Swafford shot a 6-under 66 for a share of the Zurich Classic lead with Boo Weekley when second-round play was suspended Friday because of the threat of severe weather. Swafford had an 11-under 133 total at TPC Louisiana. Weekley, the first-round leader after a 64, also was 11 under with three holes left.

Jason Day, ranked sixth in the world, was 5 under for the round through 14 holes, pulling him into a five-way tie for third at 10 under with Brandon de Jonge, Cameron Tringale, former Zurich champion Jerry Kelly and Daniel Berger. Tringale had a 65, and de Jonge shot 70. Kelley was on the 18th green when play was stopped, and Berger had three holes left.

Second-round play was scheduled to resume Saturday at 8 a.m. CDT.

Continued on Page 22

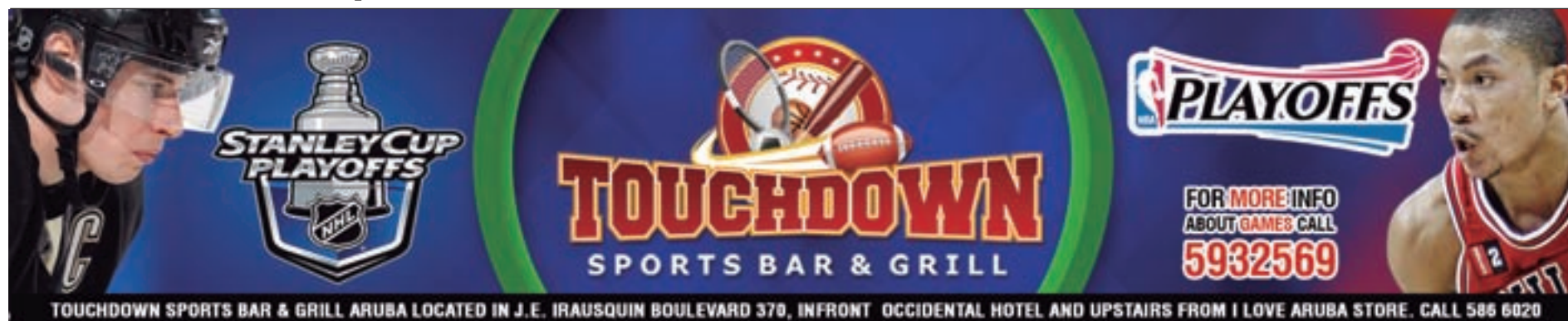
CURRY POWER



Curry's 40 rallies Warriors from 20 down

Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry celebrates the Warriors' 123-119 overtime victory over the New Orleans Pelicans in Game 3 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series in New Orleans, Thursday, April 23, 2015. The Warriors took a 3-0 lead in the best-of-seven series.

Associated Press
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NBA Roundup

Hot Curry leads Warriors to OT win and 3-0 lead

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Stephen Curry scored 40 points, including a 3-pointer in the final seconds of regulation to complete a 20-point, fourth-quarter comeback, and Golden State beat New Orleans 123-119 in overtime Thursday night to take a 3-0 lead in their first-round playoff series.

Curry hit seven 3s in all, including one to start overtime that gave the Warriors the lead for good.

Klay Thompson had 28 points for the Warriors, who trailed 89-69 after three quarters, then outscored New Orleans 39-19 over the next 12 minutes.

Anthony Davis had 29 points and 15 rebounds for the Pelicans, but his missed free throw with 9.6 seconds left — as the crowd chanted “M-V-P!” — allowed Curry’s late 3 to tie it.

Davis had a chance to tie it in the final seconds of over-



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) shoots a 3-pointer over New Orleans Pelicans forward Anthony Davis (23) to tie the score in the final seconds of the second half of Game 3 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series in New Orleans, Thursday, April 23, 2015.

Associated Press

time, but Warriors center Andrew Bogut forced him into a difficult driving shot, which missed badly.

The Warriors go for the sweep on Saturday in New Orleans. No NBA team has ever overcome a 3-0 deficit to win a playoff series.

BULLS 113, BUCKS 106, 2OT Derrick Rose scored 34 points, Jimmy Butler added 24 and Chicago beat Milwaukee 113-106 in double overtime Thursday night to take a 3-0 lead in their Eastern Conference playoff series.

Butler’s steal and layup started an 8-0 run that gave Chicago a 109-101 lead with 2:44 left in the second overtime.

Rose scored six points in the second overtime, including a layup off an offensive rebound with 2:15 left for a 10-point lead.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 25 points and Khris Middleton added 18 for Milwaukee, which went

scoreless for more than 6 minutes in the first and second overtimes.

The Bulls will go for the sweep on Saturday in Milwaukee. No NBA team has ever come back from a 3-0 deficit to win a series.

CAVALIERS 103, CELTICS 95 BOSTON (AP) — LeBron James scored 31 points and Cleveland moved one win away from a sweep in its first playoff series in five years.

The Celtics kept it close, just as they did in the previous two games, and trailed 95-92 after Evan Turner hit a 3-pointer with 2:45 left. But Kevin Love hit two 3-pointers for a 101-93 lead with 26 seconds to go.

Cleveland can complete the sweep Sunday in Boston.

Turner had 19 points and Avery Bradley added 18 for Boston.

Love had 23 points and J.R. Smith added 15 for the Cavaliers. □

Nishikori, Ferrer advance to Barcelona Open semifinals

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Defending champion Kei Nishikori made his way into the Barcelona Open semifinals by holding off Roberto Bautista Agut 6-2, 3-6, 6-1 on Friday.

Third-seeded David Ferrer also advanced by beating Philipp Kohlschreiber 6-3, 7-6 (5) as he stayed on course for a fifth final appearance at the tournament. After the top-seeded Nishikori won the first set easily, Bautista Agut rebounded in the second and got his first break. The seventh-seeded Spaniard saved three break points in his final service game before using two big serves to force the third set.

Nishikori re-established his ground game to take a 3-1 lead before winning the last three games on the Real Club de Tennis’ outdoor clay court. “It was a difficult match,” Nishikori said. “He started really well in the second set, and I was less focused, but I’m happy to win in three sets and fight really strong at the end.”

Nishikori will next face Martin Klizan after the Slovak eliminated Tommy Robredo 7-6 (5), 6-4 despite needing massage on his right forearm twice. Klizan beat Nishikori in their only previous meeting, a straight-set victory in the first round of last year’s French Open.

Ferrer and Kohlschreiber traded breaks three times in the second set to force the tiebreaker, where the fifth-ranked Spaniard prevailed for his ninth straight win over Kohlschreiber.

Ferrer lost all four finals he played here to eight-time winner Rafael Nadal.

“Winning the (Barcelona Open) is one of my goals,” Ferrer said. “It’s not my top priority, but it is one of the tournaments that I most want to win. If I haven’t won it before it’s because I haven’t deserved to. I lost a semifinal to (Fernando) Verdasco and Nadal wasn’t here that year” in 2010.

Ferrer will meet Pablo Andujar after his countryman



Kei Nishikori of Japan plays a return to Roberto Bautista of Spain, during the Barcelona open tennis tournament in Barcelona, Spain, Friday, April 24, 2015.

Associated Press

converted five of seven break chances to brush aside Italy’s Fabio Fognini 6-1, 6-3.

Fognini was unable to build on his surprising two-set win over Nadal on Thursday. □



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Spurs' Kawhi Leonard named NBA defensive player of year

RAUL DOMINGUEZ
Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—San Antonio forward Kawhi Leonard was selected the NBA defensive player of the year on Thursday, joining Michael Jordan and Hakeem Olajuwon as the only players to win the award and the NBA Finals MVP.

"Growing up as a kid, you're watching these players and you want to become who they are or get the accolades that they have. It just shows that hard work pays off," Leonard said.

He led the league in steals at 2.3 per game and has become the Spurs' primary individual defender.

Leonard received 37 first-place votes and 333 points from a U.S. panel of 129 writers and broadcasters. Golden State forward Draymond Green had 45 first-place votes,

but appeared on fewer ballots and had 317 points. Los Angeles Clippers center DeAndre Jordan finished third, receiving 32 first-place votes and 261 points.

The normally reserved Leonard did allow for an "aw man" and a huge smile when he was presented with the award in front of Spurs coach Gregg Popovich and several teammates, who arrived in San Antonio only hours earlier from Los Angeles. The Spurs beat the Clippers 111-107 in overtime on Wednesday to even the first-round playoffs series at 1-1.

After becoming the third-youngest player to win Finals MVP, Leonard has followed that up by becoming just the sixth forward to lead the league in steals since it began tracking that statistic 42 years ago. He joins David Robinson in 1993 and Al-

vin Robertson in 1986 as the only Spurs to win defensive player of the year. When the Spurs began scouting Leonard at San Diego State University, they were as impressed with his humility and work ethic as by his athleticism, his 7-foot-3 wingspan and 9.8-inch long hands.

"(His qualities were) a defensive first mentality, being a good teammate," San Antonio general manager R.C. Buford said. "Working on his game and working on the things you need to develop, not just doing the things that you like to develop, (as well as) the competitiveness."

That was why Buford made the then unpopular decision to trade reserve point guard George Hill to Indiana for Leonard's rights. Leonard has rewarded Buford's faith over his four-year career. □



San Antonio Spurs' Kawhi Leonard holds his trophy during a news conference after he was named the NBA defensive player of the year, Thursday, April 23, 2015, in San Antonio.

Associated Press



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Capitals beat Islanders 5-1 to take 3-2 series lead

The Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Tyler Johnson led a stirring Tampa Bay rally late in regulation, then scored 2:25 into overtime to lift the Lightning to a 3-2 victory over the Detroit Red Wings on Thursday night, evening their playoff series at 2-2.

The Red Wings led 2-0 in the third period before Johnson scored with 5:26 remaining. He then assisted on Ondrej Palat's tying goal 77 seconds later.

Early in the extra session, defenseman Victor Hedman led an odd-man rush from the right side and slid the puck across the goal mouth. It deflected ever so slightly off goalie Petr Mrazek, but Johnson was able to shoot into an open net from a tough angle for his fourth goal of the series. Gustav Nyquist and Joakim Andersson scored in the second period for Detroit. Andersson's goal came in fluky fashion when goalie Ben Bishop knocked it in off the crossbar.

Game 5 is Saturday back in Tampa, Florida.

CAPITALS 5, ISLANDERS 1

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rookie Evgeny Kuznetsov scored twice, Karl Alzner added a goal and an assist, and Washington beat New York for a 3-2 lead in the first-round series.

Buoyed by a raucous crowd chanting "We are louder!" in reference to some back-and-forth among players about which team's fans produce more noise, the Capitals controlled the action most of the evening after falling behind 1-0.

Dominating despite zero points from stars Alex Ovechkin or Nicklas Backstrom, Washington got goals from Kuznetsov, Brooks Laich and Jason

Chimera in the third period, which it began ahead only 2-1.

The Capitals can end the Eastern Conference series by winning Game 6 at New York on Saturday.

PREDATORS 5, BLACK-HAWKS 2

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)

day pushed the Predators to the brink of elimination, and these teams appeared headed for the third overtime game of this series tied at 1-1 after two. James Neal then got the go-ahead goal in the opening minute of the third to start a flurry of three

lin Wilson also had a goal, and Neal had an assist. Brad Richards had a goal and an assist, and Kris Versteeg also scored for Chicago.

CANUCKS 2, FLAMES 1

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Daniel Sedin scored the tiebreaking

Game 4.

David Jones scored for the Flames and Jonas Hiller stopped 41 shots.

Game 6 of the best-of-seven series is Saturday night at Calgary.

After the Flames were whistled for icing in the opening minutes of the third period,



Tampa Bay Lightning goalie Ben Bishop, middle, celebrates with Ryan Callahan as Detroit Red Wings center Pavel Datsyuk (13) skates off the ice after a Tyler Johnson goal in overtime of Game 4 of a first-round NHL Stanley Cup hockey playoff series Thursday, April 23, 2015, in Detroit.

Associated Press

— Rookie Filip Forsberg had his first career hat trick and Nashville Predators forced a sixth game in their first-round Western Conference series.

A triple-overtime loss in Chicago early Wednes-

goals in a span of less than 2 1/2 minutes and the Predators pulled to 3-2 in the series with Game 6 Saturday night in Chicago.

Forsberg finished his hat trick with an empty netter in the final minute. Co-

goal early in the third period and Vancouver avoided elimination.

Nick Bonino had the other goal for Vancouver, and Ryan Miller had 19 saves in his first start in the series after replacing Eddie Lack in

the Canucks put out their top line for the offensive-zone faceoff. Daniel Sedin took advantage, shoveling Dan Hamhuis' rebound through Hiller's pads at 1:47 for his second goal of the series. □

Big fight is not Hagler-Hearns, so don't expect a knockout



At left, in a May 4, 2013, file photo, Floyd Mayweather Jr. exchanges punches with Robert Guerrero (not shown) in a WBC welterweight title fight in Las Vegas. At right, in a Nov. 12, 2011, file photo, Manny Pacquiao exchanges punches with Juan Manuel Marquez (not shown) during a WBO welterweight title fight in Las Vegas. Associated Press

TIM DAHLBERG

AP Boxing Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Tommy Hearns understood what was expected from him the night 30 years ago when he stepped into the ring to face Marvin Hagler for the middleweight title. There would be no running. There wouldn't even be that much boxing.

"I knew before I got in the ring I had to put a show on for the people," Hearns said. "I knew I had to get him or they would say something is wrong with Tommy."

Ring history was made that night in April 1985 in what may have been the best first round ever in a major title fight. Hearns and Hagler went toe-to-toe in fearsome exchanges that bloodied Hagler and eventually sapped the vaunted punching power of Hearns.

There's no evidence that Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Manny Pacquiao will put on anything close to the epic three-rounder that was Hagler-Hearns. Mayweather has only one knockout in the last eight years, Pacquiao hasn't stopped anyone in nearly six, and there's a far better chance of them both fighting to the final bell of the 12th round than any other outcome.

But Hearns believes both fighters have to take risks they may not normally take, simply because of the magnitude of the richest fight ever.

"Mayweather has no au-

thority to be Mayweather," Hearns said. "He has to be defensive, but he has to be offensive, too. People will be offended if he doesn't. People will lose their minds."

Though Pacquiao is a free swinger who built a career on stopping people in the ring (he's got 38 knockouts in 64 fights), Mayweather prides himself on winning while not getting hit. That sometimes makes for a dull fight, something he may feel forced to try and avoid because of the massive \$180 million payday he is expected to get.

"Floyd Mayweather is going to try and take Manny Pacquiao's head off. You can count on that happening," Mayweather's promoter, Leonard Ellerbe said. "He'll do it in a manner where he follows a game plan, but Floyd Mayweather is looking to finish him off. I strongly believe he will do just that."

If Mayweather is uncharacteristically aggressive, that could play into the hands of Pacquiao, who needs to be able to find Mayweather in the ring to beat him. Still, oddsmakers in this gambling town make it nearly 3-1 that the fight will end with a decision.

"We'll keep him guessing when we're coming and we're not coming," Pacquiao trainer Freddie Roach said. "Floyd will be overwhelmed by the foot speed and the hand speed of Manny Pacquiao."

Pacquiao showed some power in his last fight, knocking Chris Algieri down six times in Macau on his way to a lopsided decision win. But he couldn't finish Algieri off, and faces a far more difficult style against the elusive Mayweather — one 47 other fighters have failed to figure out before him.

Former heavyweight champion George Foreman said Mayweather's tremendous counter-punching ability won't be enough for him to win the fight unless he engages Pacquiao more often than he has other fighters.

"Pacquiao is really a pop shot artist," Foreman said. "It's hard to get a counter punch in on him, it's not that easy. Mayweather is by far a defensive genius but to win these rounds you're going to have to become an offensive fighter, too."

Mayweather may have to fight more simply because his best defensive maneuver — the shoulder tuck away from a right hand — isn't effective against a southpaw like Pacquiao. Mayweather has struggled at times against southpaws in his career, particularly in 2006 when Zab Judah gave him fits before dropping a unanimous decision.

Mayweather has prepared by using several lefties as sparring partners, but it's his ability to adjust to an opponent in the ring that separates him from most fighters.

"We'll see what he brings to the table. I'm pretty sure our styles are totally different," Mayweather said. "I fight with smarts. I've been on top for so long because every move is calculated, every move is thought out. I'm five to 10 steps ahead of my opponent."

Mayweather will have a size advantage in the fight, which was evident when the two boxers got together at their Los Angeles press conference last month. Mayweather said he was surprised how much bigger he was than Pacquiao, who he ac-

cused of wearing lifts in his shoes to try and look bigger. He may be able to pair that advantage with mistakes made by Pacquiao. "He's a very, very reckless fighter," Mayweather said. "In the (Juan Manuel) Marquez fight (where Pacquiao was knocked out in the sixth round) he was fighting very reckless. My career would have probably not lasted this long if I was that reckless."

Hearns was a bit reckless, too, against the seemingly unstoppable Hagler. But their fight at Caesars Palace has stood the test of time, and even the loser has come to terms with it. "I knew I had to do what I did," Hearns said. "I was ready for a hard fight but not that hard. I broke my hand hitting that man in the side of the head. I was just trying to get rid of him so fast." □



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TINA FEY

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Monkey Kingdom

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SAT 3:00 | 5:00 | 7:00
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SAT 2:30 | 4:40 | 6:50 | 9:10 | 11:20
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:40 | 6:50 | 9:10

XAVIER ATKINS | MARK LEWIS JONES

CHILD 44

MON-THURS 9:00
FRI 9:00
SAT 9:00
SUN & HOL 9:00

WILL FERRELL | KEVIN HART

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MON-THURS 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35
FRI 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35 | 11:50
SAT 2:50 | 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 2:50 | 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35

VIN DIESEL | PAUL WALKER

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FRI 5:15 | 8:15 | 11:15
SAT 2:15 | 5:15 | 8:15 | 11:15
SUN & HOL 2:15 | 5:15 | 8:15

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
2D VERSION
MON-THURS 4:30 | 7:30
FRI 4:30 | 7:30 | 10:30
SAT 1:30 | 4:30 | 7:30 | 10:30
SUN & HOL 1:30 | 4:30 | 7:30

JIM PARSONS | RIHANNA

HOME

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
3D VERSION
MON-THURS 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40
FRI 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40 | 10:50
SAT 2:10 | 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40 | 10:50
SUN & HOL 2:10 | 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40

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2D VERSION
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Mets match record with 11th straight win, beat Braves 6-3

NEW YORK (AP) — Daniel Murphy drove in four runs as the New York Mets matched a club record with their 11th straight victory Thursday, walking their way to a 6-3 win over the Atlanta Braves behind Bartolo Colon.

With the top record in the majors despite injuries to several critical players, the Mets finished their first homestand 10-0 after sweeping a trio of NL East rivals. This is the fifth time the Mets have won 11 games in a row, and the first since 1990.

Colon (4-0) allowed three runs over six innings to win his first four starts for the first time in his big league career.

Julio Teheran (2-1) walked three of his first four batters, and Murphy hit a bases-clearing double to right field.

BREWERS 4, REDS 2

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Kyle Lohse (1-3) allowed two runs and three hits in seven innings, lowering his ERA from 10.34 to 7.94, and Milwaukee (3-13) stopped an eight-game losing streak. Closer Francisco Rodriguez pumped his right arm and yelled after recording the final out for his sixth save.

Jean Segura drove in the go-ahead run with a two-out single in the seventh off Kevin Gregg (0-2), and center fielder Billy Hamilton's throw home was up



New York Mets' Daniel Murphy hits a three-run double during the first inning of a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves Thursday, April 23, 2015, in New York.

Associated Press

the third-base line, allowing Logan Schafer to score.

MARLINS 9, PHILLIES 1

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — David Phelps (1-0) tossed three-hit ball over seven scoreless innings for his first win since joining Miami after three seasons with the Yankees.

Martin Prado drove in four runs, Adeiny Hechavarria had four hits and three RBIs and Giancarlo Stanton hit a two-run homer.

Miami has won two straight games after losing five in a row.

Dustin McGowan (0-1), making his first start for Philadelphia, allowed four runs, three hits and four walks in 3

1-3 innings. The announced crowd of 17,097 was the smallest in the 11-year history of Citizens Bank Park.

PIRATES 5, CUBS 4

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Gregory Polanco got three hits, including a go-ahead single in the seventh off Phil Coke. Josh Harrison hit his second double of the game, a drive off Brian Schlitter (0-2), when rookie Kris Bryant took a roundabout path on a flyball. Normally a third baseman, Bryant was making his first start in center field.

Radhames Liz (1-1) picked up his first major league win since 2008 with two innings of shutout relief, and Mark

Melancon worked a perfect ninth for his third save. Sean Rodriguez hit his first home run this season as Pittsburgh rallied from a 4-1 deficit.

CARDINALS 4, NATIONALS 1

WASHINGTON (AP) — Michael Wacha (3-0) allowed one run and five hits in seven innings to lower his ERA to 1.33 and outduel Max Scherzer (1-2), who gave up two runs and six hits in seven innings. Matt Adams hit a tiebreaking single in the sixth for St. Louis, which won its fourth straight series. Trevor Rosenthal pitched a perfect ninth for his sixth save.

ROCKIES 2, PADRES 1

DENVER (AP) — Corey Dickerson hit a go-ahead homer against Tyson Ross (1-1) leading off the fifth inning, his third solo shot in two days despite playing with pain in his left heel caused by plantar fasciitis. Jordan Lyles (2-1) allowed one run and six hits in 6 2-3 innings, and John Axford struck out Alexi Amarista to end the game for his second save. The Rockies said it was just the 25th game with a 2-1 score at Coors Field, which opened in 1995.

GIANTS 3, DODGERS 2

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Justin Maxwell, robbed of a big hit in his previous at-bat, singled home the winning run with one out in the 10th inning off Juan Nicasio (0-1) as the World Series champions completed a three-game sweep.

San Francisco tied the score in the ninth when Casey McGehee led off with a single, and Brandon Crawford tripled against Joel Peralta.

Santiago Casilla (2-0) pitched the 10th. The Dodgers arrived in San Francisco with a seven-game winning streak.

In other NL games it was Pittsburgh 5, Chicago Cubs 4; Miami 9, Philadelphia 1; N.Y. Mets 6, Atlanta 3; Milwaukee 4, Cincinnati 2; Colorado 2, San Diego 1; San Francisco 3, L.A. Dodgers 2, 10 innings; and St. Louis 4, Washington 1.

Zurich Classic

Continued from Page 17

The field remained tightly packed with birdies seemingly harder to come by Friday. Many players cited a combination of wind, soggy turf from recent rain and thick, swampy air as reasons for the course to play even longer than usual. Six players were tied for eighth, two shots off the lead. They were Chad Campbell, Morgan Hoffman, Steven Bowditch, Justin Thomas, Chris Stroud and David Hearn.

Seven more players were at 8 under, including Marc Leishman, who returned to

the PGA Tour this weekend after taking a month off from golf to tend to family when his wife became gravely ill. With his wife, recovering, Leishman came to New Orleans saying he just wanted to knock off some rust and was keeping expectations low. He did a lot better than that and is now in line for a nice payday, given officials were estimating the cut line at four under.

Leishman was at 10 under through 17 holes, putting him in position to set a TPC Louisiana record with a birdie on the par-5 18th. But after a booming drive, Leishman gambled



on an aggressive second shot, using his driver on the fairway. He pushed his ball right into the water. When play was stopped, he was on the fringe, lying four, needing to sink his next shot Saturday morning to tie the course record of 62. Swafford, in only his second season on the tour, had six birdies and no bogeys during his second round, putting him in position to contend for what would be his maiden PGA Tour victory. His best finish so far is tied for eighth at the Frys.com Open last October, though his most impressive outing may have been at last month's Arnold Palmer invitational at Bay Hill, where he tied for 11th.

Microsoft results show company's shift, but is it enough?

BRANDON BAILEY

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Microsoft is changing its business. The question is whether it's changing fast enough. The tech giant showed some progress Thursday, reporting better-than-expected quarterly earnings and more growth in its relatively new cloud computing segment. CEO Satya Nadella has been investing in new services and redesigning Microsoft's most popular programs for smartphones and other mobile gadgets.

But a continuing slump in the PC industry has caused Microsoft's stock to flounder in recent months, marking the end of a honeymoon year in which shares rose steadily after Nadella took the reins in February 2014. Microsoft's latest report shows another decline in profit and revenue from the company's flagship Windows software for personal computers.

Wall Street analysts say 2015 is the year Nadella needs to show his strategy is making a difference.

"He needs to not just talk the talk, but walk the walk," said FBR Capital Markets analyst Daniel Ives, who's been a fan of Nadella's moves to overhaul a company best-known for its PC software. He called the quarterly report "a big step in the right direction."

Microsoft's financial results underscore the importance of Nadella's efforts. Revenue from cloud computing has grown rapidly, as more businesses are paying to use software housed in Microsoft's data centers. The Redmond, Washington-based company says it's on track to log more than \$6 billion in cloud sales this year.

But Microsoft still relies heavily on selling traditional software, which contributed the largest part of its \$21.7 billion in sales for the quarter. While overall revenue increased, thanks to sales by the newly acquired Nokia phone business, the company saw a 26 percent drop in Windows licensing revenue for



This Jan. 21, 2015 photo shows Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella speaking at an event demonstrating new features of its flagship operating system Windows at the company's headquarters in Redmond, Wash. Microsoft will report earnings Thursday April 23, 2015. Associated Press

consumer PCs and a 19 percent drop in licensing for business PCs.

Demand for new PCs is expected to fall in 2015 for the fourth consecutive year, according to International Data Corp. Microsoft blamed weak demand, along with a strong dollar overseas, when it issued a forecast in January for lower revenue than analysts had expected. That sent Microsoft's stock tumbling more than 10 percent in one day. After peaking at \$50.05 last November, Microsoft Corp. shares have traded below \$43 recently. The stock closed Thursday at \$43.34 and rose almost 4 percent in extended trading after the earnings report. Microsoft is hoping for a boost later this year when it releases a redesigned version of Windows with new features for PCs and mobile devices. And Nadella has taken other steps to get Microsoft's software into the hands of consumers who prefer smartphones and tablets. That includes offering Windows at steep discounts for manufacturers to use

in lower-priced tablets and laptops. This may hurt revenue near term, but Bernstein Research analyst Mark

Moerdler says it should pay off eventually by getting more people to use Microsoft products like the Bing

search engine and Office 365 programs for documents, spreadsheets and mail. □

Computer program to take on world's best in Texas Hold 'em

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Carnegie Mellon University researchers are going all in, pitting a computer program against some of the world's best professional poker players.

Computer science professor Tuomas Sandholm and researchers Sam Ganzfried and Noam Brown are taking their poker-playing computer program, Claudico, to Rivers Casino in Pittsburgh on Friday. Claudico — the Latin word for limp, as in limping in to a bet — will take on Doug Polk, Dong Kim, Bjorn Li and Jason Les. They'll split a prize purse of \$100,000 in a competition funded by the casino and Microsoft.

Getting a computer to beat humans in poker has been a goal for more than 10 years, Sandholm said. The numerous unknown

variables are the perfect test for artificial intelligence. The machine must account for about 10 to the 161st power of variables — more than all the atoms believed to exist in the universe.

Les, 29, is a professional poker player but has a degree in computer science. He said he relishes the opportunity to play Claudico. "I think in the early stages, the computer might have an advantage, but at a certain point the players can figure out what's going on and adjust," Les said. "But it's a strategy game. You bring a strategy to the table and the computer's strategy may be better than mine."

The competition continues the work of other Carnegie Mellon-trained scientists who have contributed to past artificial intelligence

challenges, such as IBM's Deep Blue program that beat chess master Garry Kasparov in 1997 and IBM's Watson, which beat Jeopardy champions Brad Rutter and Ken Jennings in 2011.

Polk said he wants to represent humans as best he can against the machines that will eventually beat them.

"I hope we can stand up for humanity and take this computer down," he said with a laugh. "I know computers will eventually be able to beat humans. But I hope we can make them go a few more rounds after this before they do, like Kasparov did."

The computer will play 80,000 hands of Heads-Up No-Limit Texas Hold 'em in the two-week tournament. □

Stocks inch up on tech earnings

KEN SWEET

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks advanced slightly Friday as investors cheered the quarterly results of three large technology companies: Google, Microsoft and Amazon.

The modest gains helped close out a relatively strong week for U.S. stocks, with the three major indexes rising between 1.4 and 3.2 percent in five days. The Standard & Poor's 500 and Nasdaq composite closed at record highs.

lift the Nasdaq more than the Dow or S&P 500. A common theme was signs that the companies were growing sales outside of their bread-and-butter businesses.

Amazon jumped \$55.11, or 14 percent, to \$445.10 in heavy trading. While the company reported a quarterly loss, Amazon showed it had 49 percent sales growth in Amazon Web Services, its cloud computing division. The promise that cloud computing could bolster Amazon's

products it sells and Google is heavily exposed to desktop computer advertising while the world is shifting to mobile.

"I think we are starting to see actual evidence that their strategies are working, especially at Microsoft and Amazon," said Dan Morgan, a portfolio manager at Synovus Trust Company, who owns shares of all three companies.

Next week could be a make-or-break period for investors. So far, first quarter earnings have come in



Trader John Liotti works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stocks advanced slightly Friday as investors cheered the quarterly results of three large technology companies: Google, Microsoft and Amazon.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Investors now prepare for the biggest week of earnings season. Next week, more than 150 companies in the S&P 500 will report their results, including such market-moving names as Apple, Ford, Visa, Pfizer and Exxon Mobil.

On Friday, The Dow Jones industrial average rose 21.45 points, or 0.1 percent, to 18,080.14. The S&P 500 rose 4.76 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,117.69 and the Nasdaq rose 36.02 points, or 0.7 percent, to 5,092.08. The Nasdaq beat its record of 5,048.62, set on March 10, 2000 at the height of the dot-com boom, on Thursday.

Microsoft, Amazon and Google all rose sharply after the releasing their quarterly results, which helped

bottom line was enough to send investors flooding into the stock.

Microsoft rose \$4.53, or 11 percent, to \$47.87. The software giant had results that beat expectations, and like Amazon, showed promising growth in its cloud computing business. Lastly, Google rose \$16.20, or 3 percent, to \$573.66. The search and advertising company missed analysts' expectations; the company had strong growth in mobile advertising.

Investors have been looking for Google, Microsoft and Amazon to show some sort of progress outside their traditional businesses. Microsoft cannot solely rely on computer sales to drive its profits, Amazon has very low profit margins on the

softer than what investors had anticipated, which has caused analysts to write down their forecasts. Most companies have blamed the U.S. dollar as a reason why sales and profits are down, but there are only so many excuses investors will accept before they sell.

First-quarter profits are expected to be down 2.8 percent from a year earlier. It would be the first time corporate profits have declined since the third quarter of 2012, according to FactSet. In the energy markets, the price of U.S. crude oil fell 59 cents to close at \$57.15 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils used by many U.S. refineries, rose 43 cents to close at \$65.28 a barrel in London. □

Comcast deal may be dead, but consolidation will go on

TALI ARBEL

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Even though Comcast's \$45.2 billion bid for Time Warner Cable is dead, consolidation among the companies that pipe in our TV, phone and Internet will carry on.

Combining the No. 1 and No. 2 U.S. cable companies would have put nearly 30 percent of TV and about 55 percent of broadband subscribers under one roof, along with NBCUniversal. That appeared to be too much concentration for regulators.

Comcast and Time Warner Cable said Friday morning that they would drop the deal in the face of opposition from regulators.

But cable companies are likely to keep merging as online video options proliferate, the number of cable and satellite TV subscribers slips and costs rise for the shows, sports and movies piped to subscribers.

At the same time, there will be more competition for young customers seeking stand-alone Internet and mobile video offerings and cheaper TV channel packages.

This is already happening. Verizon's FiOS is trying smaller, customizable TV bundles, while HBO has launched an online version of its content, HBO Now, that doesn't require a cable TV subscription.

"I don't think it's the demise of the cable industry. But its complete dominance of distribution is over," said Randy Giusto, a media industry analyst with advisory firm Outsell Inc.

One of the concerns consumer advocates and competitors had with the Comcast deal was that it could undermine the streaming video industry that is reshaping TV. Comcast could, for example, require onerous payments from new online-only video providers for connecting to its network. Dish, the satellite TV company behind the new Web video service Sling TV, and Netflix opposed the deal.

"It goes to show you how important broadband is," said Amy Yong, a Macquarie analyst.

Regulators have taken other steps that signal how important they consider Internet access. The Federal Communications Commission in February released new "Net Neutrality" rules meant to keep broadband providers from charging Internet companies for "fast lane" access or favoring some content. The broadband industry has sued to stop the rules.

So how did this play out?

Opposition from consumer advocates and competitors was fierce since the deal was announced in February 2014.

"This is one of those deals where the opponents of the merger have been one of the most vocal I can remember," said S&P Capital IQ Tuna Amobi.

On Tuesday Al Franken, D-Minn., along with five other Democratic senators and Bernie Sanders, I-Vermont, urged the Federal Communications Commission and the Department of Justice to block the merger, saying it would lead to higher prices and fewer choices.

"It's a dead end for Comcast," said Rob McDowell, a former FCC commissioner.

Comcast spokeswoman Sena Fitzmaurice confirmed that company executives met Wednesday with Justice Department and FCC officials. But she would not comment on what occurred during the meetings or what other conversations the company was having with regulators. A dropped Comcast-Time Warner Cable deal means a transaction with Charter Communications Inc. aimed to smoothing the way for regulatory approval also falls apart. □

American Airlines beats Street first quarter forecasts

DAVID KOENIG
AP Airlines Writer

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — The fuel bill at American Airlines fell by nearly half in the first quarter, helping the company set a record profit despite a dip in revenue. The combination of cheaper fuel and steady demand for flights within the U.S. is boosting all the major domestic airlines, with American joining Delta, United and Southwest in posting sharply higher earnings.

American Airlines Group Inc. said Friday that net income was \$932 million, nearly double last year's \$480 million, the previous record for the quarter. The record profit, however, was less than the company's \$1.36 billion savings on fuel, compared with a year earlier. And that captures the challenge that American and other airlines will face later this year: How will they keep boosting profits in the third and fourth quar-

ters, when their results will be compared with the falling fuel prices of late 2014? American's president, Scott Kirby, said the airline must increase revenue for every seat it flies one mile, a figure known in the industry by the acronym RASM. "We will have to get to a world where RASM is growing, and I hope that will be the case," Kirby said on a conference call with analysts and reporters. "There are all kinds of things we do

to try to manage the business... and try to increase revenues." Revenue fell nearly 2 percent in the first quarter to \$9.83 billion. The per-mile statistic cited by Kirby fell at a similar rate, and American predicted it will decline even more sharply in the second quarter, by between 4 percent and 6 percent. The company blamed new flights added by competitors, which tends to lead to cutting fares; the strong U.S.

dollar, which reduced international ticket sales; and weakness in Latin America. But expenses fell 7 percent thanks to the nosedive in oil prices that began last summer. Spending on fuel at American, US Airways and their regional airlines including American Eagle dropped 42 percent to \$1.86 billion. In a break from recent quarters, the Fort Worth-based company spent more on labor than fuel. □

Amazon's Web Services boosts first-quarter revenue

MAE ANDERSON
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon's profitable cloud-computing services business is growing by leaps and bounds. That growth helped the e-commerce company Thursday night post a 15 percent first-quarter revenue jump and a smaller-than-expected loss. The results sent Amazon's shares up 6 percent in aftermarket trading. Investors have been growing restless with Amazon's long-term strategy of plowing most of the money it makes into new areas like cloud computing, streaming video and hardware — leading to razor-thin profits or, in this quarter's case, a loss.

Because Amazon had never broken out details on Amazon Web Services before, it wasn't clear if it was operating at a profit or loss. But details released on Thursday show that surging revenue isn't coming

at expense of a profit in that business, reassuring investors. Meanwhile, Amazon shows no sign of slowing down new offerings. In recent months, Amazon introduced Amazon Echo, a Bluetooth speaker that responds to voice commands and Amazon Dash, stand-alone buttons that can be pressed to reorder common household goods like Tide detergent. It has also rolled out services that help users book travel and hire people to complete household projects. And it's expanding its Amazon Prime Instant Video service for members of its \$99 annual Prime loyalty program, including a TV series with Woody Allen.

Amazon Web Services is a suite of products and services offered to businesses by way of the "cloud," remote servers that enable users to access applications on any machine with an Internet connection. Revenue in that busi-

ness rose 49 percent to \$1.57 billion. Meanwhile, total revenue rose to revenue of \$22.72 billion, slightly be-

low analyst expectations of \$22.37 billion. "Amazon Web Services is a \$5 billion business and still growing fast — in fact it's accelerating," said CEO Jeff Bezos.



An Amazon logo is seen at the introduction of the new Amazon Kindle Fire HD and Kindle Paperwhite personal devices, in Santa Monica, Calif. Amazon reported earnings late in the evening, Thursday April 23, 2015.

(AP Photo/Reed Saxon)

Amazon Web Services is the biggest player in the public

cloud-computing space, 5 or 6 times bigger than its closest competitor, Microsoft's Azure, and Google a

top is they've had a relentless approach to innovation, adding 40 to 50 new services a year while still dropping prices constantly," said Forrester analyst David Bartoletti. The company has dropped prices 48 times in the nine years it has been around.

One of its most recent offerings announced in January is WorkMail, which helps run companies email and calendar services. Amazon also makes the different components of Amazon Web Services easy to try for free.

In the first quarter Amazon reported a loss of \$57 million, or 12 cents per share. The average estimate of 17 analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research was for a loss of 13 cents per share.

The online retailer posted revenue of \$22.72 billion in the period, also beating Street forecasts. Seventeen analysts surveyed by Zacks expected \$22.42 billion. □

Chipotle signs delivery deal with startup Postmates

MIKE ISAAC
STEPHANIE STROM
© 2015 New York Times

In the age of the on-demand economy, sooner or later everything is just a few taps of a smartphone app away. Including burritos. Chipotle Mexican Grill, the popular chain known for its "fast-casual" burritos, said this week it has begun offering food delivery through Postmates, a San Francis-

co-based delivery startup that is growing quickly. Under the arrangement, Chipotle delivery is now available in 67 cities in the United States where Postmates operates. The cost of delivery, which is based on distance, will start at \$4.99 and go as high as \$7.99 per order, according to a Postmates spokeswoman. The deal, which Chipotle announced in a con-

ference call with investors this week, is a coup for Postmates. The startup — which has a fleet of more than 10,000 couriers to deliver food, groceries, office supplies and other goods for users who have the Postmates app — has fought aggressively to expand into new cities since it was founded three years ago, while competitors like GrubHub and Yelp have

sought to bolster their own delivery offerings. Signing large partners like Chipotle, as well as recently inking a deal with Starbucks, will likely raise Postmates's visibility. The deal brings a different pricing model for Postmates. Typically, consumers pay it a delivery fee that varies based on the distance traveled by a courier; in the Chipotle deal, the pricing is capped. That

should eliminate excessively high fees for consumers, though outlets like Re/code have questioned whether that is really the case. The deal could also be a boon for Chipotle. To date, the chain has not provided an official delivery service, even though people could order Chipotle meals through delivery apps like Postmates or other startups like Doordash. □

Mutts



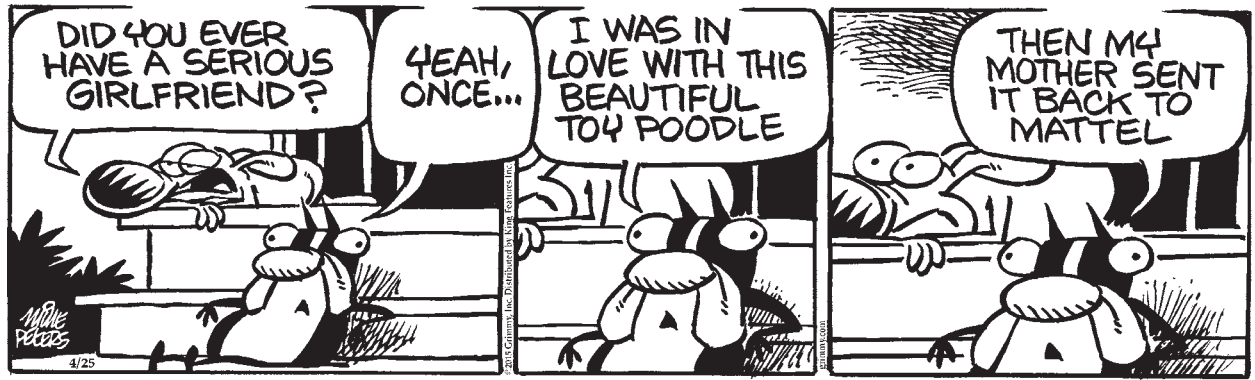
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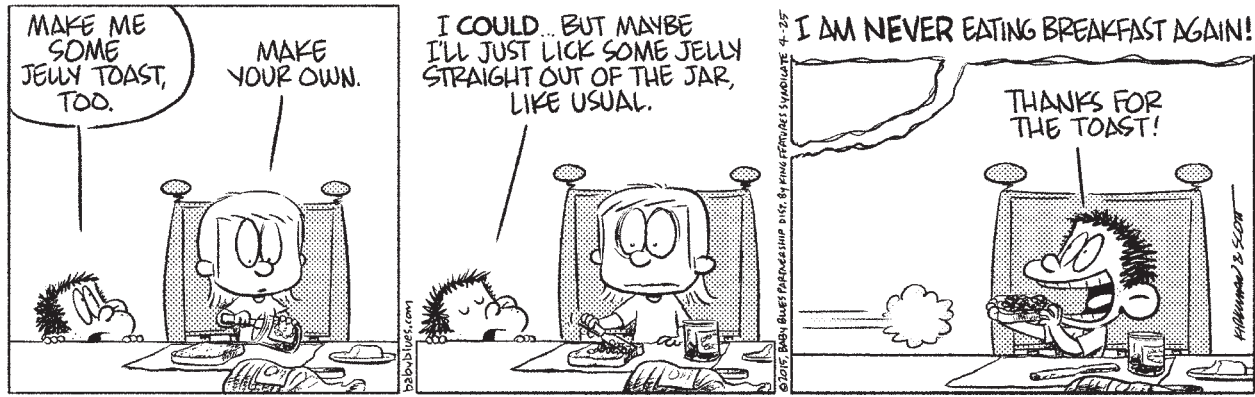
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		7		9			
	2			8		6	
				7			1
	3		5		9		
1		4				7	3
			7		4		8
8				4			
	5		6			4	
			8		9		

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 4/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

8	7	4	5	9	3	2	6	1
6	9	2	1	8	7	5	4	3
1	5	3	6	2	4	7	9	8
5	4	9	2	1	6	3	8	7
2	3	6	4	7	8	9	1	5
7	1	8	3	5	9	4	2	6
9	6	1	7	3	2	8	5	4
4	8	7	9	6	5	1	3	2
3	2	5	8	4	1	6	7	9

- ACROSS
- 1 Mini-blind piece
 - 5 onself; worked steadily
 - 10 Hold __; keep
 - 14 Leaf vegetable
 - 15 In the loop
 - 16 Cut of pork
 - 17 __ tea
 - 18 Flower piece
 - 19 Valley
 - 20 Made up one's mind
 - 22 Puts away in a secret cache
 - 24 " __ Father, Who art in..."
 - 25 Fido's restraint
 - 26 Scour
 - 29 As __ as a beet
 - 30 Ivory and Dove
 - 34 Farrow & Sara
 - 35 Embrace
 - 36 Actor __ Wynn
 - 37 Phone inventor Bell's initials
 - 38 Mosque tower
 - 40 Monogram for Mamie's man
 - 41 Long-eared animal
 - 43 Remain behind
 - 44 In this place
 - 45 Attempts
 - 46 Underhanded
 - 47 More astute
 - 48 Overweight
 - 50 Talk on and on
 - 51 Watch
 - 54 Unexplainable occurrence
 - 58 Greek cheese
 - 59 More elderly
 - 61 Place for a goat
 - 62 Ran away
 - 63 Know __; smartypants
 - 64 __ over; deliver
 - 65 Sources of quick cash, for short
 - 66 Monies owed
 - 67 Annoys

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21				22	23			
			24				25					
26	27	28				29			30	31	32	33
34				35				36				
37				38				39			40	
41			42					43			44	
45								46			47	
			48					49			50	
51	52	53						54			55	56
57								58			59	60
61								62			63	
64								65			66	
								67			68	

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 4/25/15

Friday's Puzzle Solved

MENU	AGLOW	URGE
AVES	BRIDE	PEON
MATE	DUNDER	HEAD
ASH	FUNK	HOLDS
EJECT	OIL	
SPROUT	VANDAL	
ARMED	CAIRO	COO
MOOS	PACES	SCOW
EDS	RILED	LOUSE
STROLL	BEAMED	
ALE	HAIKU	
HOWIE	TEDS	LAB
UNASSUMING	RAKE	
BCDE	PIECE	ITIS
SEES	ADDER	PENT

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- DOWN
- 1 Slide sideways on ice

- 2 "Arsenic and Old"
- 3 Actor Baldwin
- 4 Boring
- 5 __ bag; lunch box alternative
- 6 Astonished
- 7 Lynx or lion
- 8 Wiped away
- 9 Fraternity letter
- 10 As comfortable as an __
- 11 Ark builder
- 12 Scrabble piece
- 13 Smallest bills
- 21 Give a nickname to
- 23 Valuable item
- 25 __ acceptable; lawful
- 26 Intelligent
- 27 Cuban export
- 28 Temple leader
- 29 Gallop
- 31 Range where llamas roam
- 32 Chaplain's title
- 33 Derisive smile
- 35 Punch
- 36 Beer barrel
- 38 Tightwad
- 39 Actor Walston
- 42 Decapitates
- 44 Small barbecue
- 46 Slender
- 47 Major conflict
- 49 Stay away from
- 50 Little misses
- 51 As easy as falling __ log
- 52 Waist strap
- 53 Wineglass part
- 54 Dissolve
- 55 Scorch
- 56 Chain piece
- 57 Finishes
- 60 Small amount



Australian engineer Barney Smeaton poses for a photo on the balcony of his friend's apartment, backdropped by Sugarloaf Mountain, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. After an unsuccessful 6-month job search Smeaton is leaving Brazil. "I'd be really open to coming back," said Smeaton, who specializes in the alternative energy sector. "I still think this country has enormous potential." (AP Photo/Leo Correa)

Foreigners who came to Brazil in boom times flee the bust

JENNY BARCHFIELD

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) —

When Frenchman Gwenel Lecourieux was gearing up to move to Brazil, the country with its swelling upper class and world-renowned hunger for luxury goods seemed like the perfect place to set up his dream business, selling high-end watches.

But Brazil's economy skidded to a halt and demand evaporated for his watches worth thousands of dollars each. Just 15 months after arriving in Rio de Janeiro, 36-year-old Lecourieux is preparing to cut his losses and return to France. And he's not alone. The number of foreigners receiving work authorizations fell 24 percent between 2013 and 2014, from 62,387 to 47,259, according to the Labor and Employment Ministry. Brazil doesn't track the number of foreign residents leaving the country, but signs indicate the country's allure has slipped since foreign work authorizations peaked in 2011. Not long ago, Brazil was the envy of recession-encumbered Europe and the United States, with an annual growth rate of 7.5 percent in 2010 and nearly

full employment. But falling commodity prices and dampening domestic consumer demand have upended the economy, which barely expanded in 2014 and is expected to recede this year. Inflation and unemployment are spiraling, and the local currency has lost value, driving up already high living costs. Add to that a kickback scandal that has hand-cuffed Brazil's biggest company, the state-run oil firm Petrobras, and a burdensome bu-

reaucracy and it's not surprising that Brazil's shine is fading.

"There are so many factors that have sunk the country," Lecourieux said. "Today the market is very pessimistic. Lecourieux jumped past bureaucratic hurdles, obtained an entrepreneur's visa, and invested some \$50,000 in setting up his company — in which he sold his inventory of luxury watches directly to clients in their homes — hoping to rapidly expand the venture.

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Scientists convinced of tie between earthquakes and drilling

ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Scientists are now more certain than ever that oil and gas drilling is causing hundreds upon hundreds of earthquakes across the U.S., with the evidence coming in from one study after another.

So far, the quakes have been mostly small and have done little damage beyond cracking plaster, toppling bricks and rattling nerves. But seismologists warn that the shaking can dramatically increase the chances of bigger, more dangerous quakes.

Up to now, the oil and gas industry has generally argued that any such link requires further study. But the rapidly mounting evidence could bring heavier regulation down on drillers and make it more difficult for them to get projects approved.

The potential for man-made quakes "is an important and legitimate concern that must be taken very seriously by regulators and industry," said Jason Bordoff, founding director of the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University. He said companies and states can reduce the risk by taking such steps as monitoring operations more closely, imposing tighter standards and recycling wastewater from

drilling instead of injecting it underground.

A series of government and academic studies over the past few years — including at least two reports released this week alone — has added to the body of evidence implicating the U.S. drilling boom that has created

triggered by drilling. The report said man-made quakes tied to industry operations have been on the rise.

Scientists have mainly attributed the spike to the injection of wastewater deep underground, a practice they say can activate dormant faults.

William Ellsworth. Until recently, Oklahoma — one of the biggest energy-producing states — had been cautious about linking the spate of quakes to drilling. But the Oklahoma Geological Survey acknowledged earlier this week that it is "very likely" that re-

each year. It is now seeing an average of 2.5 such quakes each day, according to geologists. Yet another study, this one published Tuesday in the journal Nature Communications, connected a swarm of small quakes west of Fort Worth, Texas, to nearby natural gas wells and wastewater disposal.

The American Petroleum Institute said the industry is working with scientists and regulators "to better understand the issue and work toward collaborative solutions."

The Environmental Protection Agency said there no plans for new regulations as a result of the USGS study.

"We knew there would be challenges there, but they can be overcome," EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy said Thursday at an energy conference in Houston.

For decades, earthquakes were an afterthought in the central and eastern U.S., which worried more about tornadoes, floods and hurricanes. Since 2009, quakes have sharply increased, and in some surprising places.

The ground has been trembling in regions that were once seismically stable, including parts of Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma and Texas. □



This Sunday, Nov. 6, 2011 file photo of a chimney that toppled and went through the roof at the home of Joe and Mary Reneau are pictured through a second-story screen window in Sparks, Okla. **Associated Press**

a bounty of jobs and tax revenue over the past decade or so.

On Thursday, the U.S. Geological Survey released the first comprehensive maps pinpointing more than a dozen areas in the central and eastern U.S. that have been jolted by quakes that the researchers said were

Only a few cases of shaking have been blamed on fracking, in which large volumes of water, sand and chemicals are pumped into rock formations to crack them open and free oil or gas.

"The picture is very clear" that wastewater injection can cause faults to move, said USGS geophysicist

cent seismic activity was caused by the injection of wastewater into disposal wells.

Earthquake activity in Oklahoma in 2013 was 70 times greater than it was before 2008, state geologists reported. Oklahoma historically recorded an average of 1.5 quakes of magnitude 3 or greater

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In this April 17, 2010 photo, Sawyer Sweeten, Madylin Sweeten and Sullivan Sweeten arrive at the 8th Annual TV Land Awards in Los Angeles, California.

Associated Press

Sawyer Sweeten of 'Everybody Loves Raymond' dies at 19

NEW YORK (AP) — Sawyer Sweeten, who played one of Ray Romano's twin sons in the CBS comedy "Everybody Loves Raymond," has died. He was 19.

Sweeten committed suicide, his sister Madylin Sweeten, said in a statement. There were no other details. Madylin, and Sawyer's twin brother Sullivan, all played the children in the sitcom's fictional Barone family.

The hit comedy aired for nine seasons before ending in 2005. Sawyer Sweeten was a toddler when the series began.

In a statement Madylin, who is four years older than Sawyer, said the family was requesting privacy.

"We beg of you to reach out to the ones that you love," she said. "Let them have no doubt of what they mean to you."

The comedy tended to focus on the fractured family dynamics of the sportswriter character Romano played, his parents and younger brother. The children were rarely more than an afterthought in the plots.

Sawyer Sweeten's other listed credits were a 2002 movie starring Randy Quaid, and appearing in one episode of the TV show "Even Stevens." IMDB listed no credits after "Raymond" left the air. □

Dr. Oz mounts spirited defense against critical letter

FRAZIER MOORE

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Dr. Mehmet Oz says last week's attack by 10 doctors who accused him of promoting "quack treatments" on his TV show was spurred by his vocal support for labeling genetically modified foods — a stance he says some if not all of those accusers oppose.

Oz devoted the first half of his syndicated show on Thursday to his response to what he called "a brazen letter from 10 mysterious doctors" sent to Columbia University, where Oz serves as vice chairman of the surgery department and performs heart surgery at Columbia's affiliated hospital. The letter accused him of an "egregious lack of integrity" and urged the university to remove him from its faculty.

A Columbia spokesman defended Oz by saying the school is "committed to the principle of academic freedom."

But the letter set off a new round of criticism of Oz, who in the past has been slammed for promoting questionable cure-alls and last June appeared before the Senate's consumer protection panel, where he was scolded for claims he had made on his show about weight-loss aids —



In this June 17, 2014, file photo, Dr. Mehmet Oz, vice chairman and professor of surgery, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

claims he says he has since stopped making.

New Yorker staff writer Michael Specter, who profiled Oz for that magazine two years ago, said on NPR this week that, whereas every doctor's first obligation is to do no harm, Oz "does harm every time he goes on the air by recommending things for which there is no evidence, and things often that he knows not to be true."

Meanwhile, New York Times columnist Frank Bruni described Oz as "a carnival barker" and "a one-man morality play about the temptations of mammon and the seduction of applause...."

Launched in 2009 by Oprah

Winfrey, "The Dr. Oz Show" has repeatedly been criticized for mixing rigorous and dubious science. But Oz, who sees his show as a forum for discussing a range of health practices to better inform his audience, wondered aloud what accounted for the timing of last week's letter.

His conclusion: His own continuing opposition to any legislation that would strip government agencies of their ability to label genetically modified foods in the marketplace.

Oz reiterated his conviction that consumers have the right to know whether food at their stores originates from genetically modified organisms. □

Jake Tapper to host Sunday program on CNN

NEW YORK (AP) — Jake Tapper will take over as host of CNN's Sunday morning public affairs program "State of the Union" in June.

The former ABC newsmen, who hosts a weekday afternoon program on CNN, replaces Candy Crowley. She left CNN in December and a rotating series of substitutes has been filling in ever since.

CNN chief Jeff Zucker on Friday called Tapper a "terrific interviewer who

doesn't stop until he gets answers."

It's a time of transition for the Sunday shows. CBS' Bob Schieffer just announced his retirement and he'll be replaced by John Dickerson this summer, and Chuck Todd took over last year on NBC's "Meet the Press." □

In this April 27, 2011 file photo, then ABC News' Chief White House Correspondent Jake Tapper holds up a copy of the president's birth certificate, released by the White House today, at the White House briefing room in Washington.



Associated Press

Iraqi boy's dream of becoming dancer defied threats, borders

SAM McNEIL

Associated Press

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) — As a boy in pre-war Baghdad, Adil Faraj dreamed of becoming a dancer, inspired by a Michael Jackson performance he watched on DVD.

For over a decade, he pursued his passion despite daunting challenges and harassment by strangers and police. He taught himself by moving to dance videos in his cramped family home — hiding from a conservative society scornful of the art form and from the chaos that engulfed Iraq after the U.S.-led invasion in 2003.

Last weekend, the sweat and tears paid off when the now 22-year-old performed on stage for the first time, to a packed house at the Amman Contemporary Dance Festival in the Jordanian capital.

After his solo — machine-like moves to the haunting Gary Jules' song "Mad World" mixed with break dancing — the audience erupted in applause, and Faraj raised his fists triumphantly before bowing.

"I felt tremendous joy," he said, his chiseled frame sweaty after the dance. "It



In this Thursday, April 16, 2015 photo, Adil Faraj waits backstage for the cue to begin his final rehearsal before his on-stage debut at the Amman Contemporary Dance Festival in Amman, Jordan.

is like a dream."

It was a long journey from his tiny Baghdad bedroom to the Amman stage — the last stretch helped along by the New York City-based Battery Dance Company that mentored him through lessons via Skype and brought him to Jordan.

The young dancer's struggle highlights the decline of the arts in Iraq after years of political upheaval.

In the 1960s and 1970s, music and the arts flourished in the then relatively secular country. After the 1991 Gulf War, in which a U.S.-led coalition dislodged Iraqi troops from Kuwait, the space for artistic expression shrank due to Saddam Hussein's embrace of more religious themes and U.N. sanctions that prompted artists to flee abroad.

Iraq's once vivacious

dance community was gutted by violent sectarianism, including the emergence of Sunni and Shiite religious extremists who rejected many forms of art and threatened artists, said Waleed Shamil, a history professor in the town of Dohuk in Iraq's autonomous northern Kurdistan region.

Baghdad, a city of 7 million, now has only three theaters for performances and one

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cinema.

Faraj said Iraq no longer feels like home, though he returned to Baghdad this week to finish a law degree. "If there were no problems in Iraq with dance and people liked dance, then I would have no problem being there," he said. "But that isn't so and I can't imagine any other solution than to leave Iraq ... I will come back to teach and dance, but I will never permanently return there." In Baghdad, Faraj's parents are proud but said it was sometimes difficult to have an aspiring dancer as a son.

When they heard about the dancing, some relatives and neighbors appealed to his father, Qais, to get him to stop it.

"Some of them expressed their objection and approached me so that I could convince him to give up," said the elder Faraj, who sells air conditioners in Baghdad's commercial district of Karrada.

"I severed ties with some of them, while some of them changed their opinions when they saw his successes and are now encouraging him," said the 50-year-old father.

Glenn Close, Lena Dunham strike emotional chord at event

NEKESA MUMBI MOODY

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Using her own family and Robin Williams as an example, a tearful Glenn Close urged some of the most powerful women in entertainment to help society shed its fear of those fighting mental illness in an emotional speech Friday at Variety's Power of Women luncheon.

Close was among the honorees, who also included Kim Kardashian and Whoopi Goldberg.

Close's speech was a tear-jerker for many in the crowd. She started off with a joke: "As an actress, I've terrified men, and I've certainly terrified children, but I have yet to terrify women. Contrary to the cliché, there's little that frightens us."

But she went on to talk



Glenn Close attends Variety's Power of Women Luncheon at Cipriani Midtown on Friday, April 24, 2015, in New York.

Associated Press

about how the specter of mental illness scares her most, and the need for greater awareness. Her sister has been diagnosed with bipolar disorder, her nephew has schizo-

ffective disorder, and she recalled that her mother, who died two months ago, struggled with depression. As she fought through tears, Close said, "Whoopi, I feel Robin here today. He would be whispering in my ear, 'A couple of jokes would help right now.'" Williams, Close's co-star in "The World According to Garp," committed suicide last year. Referencing Williams and others who have killed themselves, Close said: "We have lost so many." She urged support of the mentally ill through her charity, Bring Change2Mind.

Lena Dunham, who also was honored, talked about her experience as a rape survivor and how it led her to support GEMS, an organization that helps girls caught in the sex trafficking

trade.

She praised GEMS for championing those girls, and recalled when she too was in a vulnerable situation. "When I was raped, I felt powerless. I felt my value had been determined by someone else, someone who sent me the message that body was not my own my choices were meaningless," she said. "It took years to recognize my personal worth was not tied to my assault, that the voices telling me I deserved this were phantoms, they were liars." Kardashian choked up as she talked about her late father, famed attorney Robert Kardashian, who died of cancer. His death, she said, led her to become a supporter of the Children's Hospital in Los Angeles.

Actress Rachel Weisz shared success stories from the Opportunity Network, which provides support for underprivileged backgrounds so they can get a college degree. Colbie Smulders received a special Samsung Galaxy Edge Award for her work with the Oceana group (Trisha Yearwood, Ava DuVernay and Emmy Rossum got separate Barbie honors).

Goldberg, who was cited for her support of Figure Skating in Harlem, brought laughter to the event, noting it ran a bit long (three hours) and admitting it wasn't exactly her thing.

"We don't need to talk about it — do it," she said. "Women are not good at helping each other, we talk (stuff) about women like that."

Greece on the Brink



PAUL KRUGMAN
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"Don't you think they want us to fail?"

That's the question I kept hearing during a brief but intense visit to Athens. My answer was that there is no "they" - that Greece does not, in fact, face a solid bloc of implacable creditors who would rather see default and exit from the euro than let a leftist government succeed, that there's more goodwill on the other side of the table than many Greeks suppose.

But you can understand why Greeks see things that way. And I came away from the visit fearing that Greece and Europe may suffer a terrible accident, an unnecessary rupture that will cast long shadows over the future.

The story so far: At the end of 2009 Greece faced a crisis driven by two factors: High debt, and inflated costs and prices that left the country uncompetitive.

Europe responded with loans that kept the cash flowing, but only on condition that Greece pursues extremely painful policies. These included spending cuts and tax hikes that, if imposed on the United States, would amount to \$3 trillion a year. There were also wage cuts on a scale that's hard to fathom, with average wages down 25 percent from their peak.

These immense sacrifices were supposed to produce recovery. Instead, the destruction of purchasing power deepened the slump, creating Great Depression-level suffering and a huge humanitarian crisis.

On Saturday I visited a shelter for the homeless, and was told heartbreaking tales of a health care system in collapse: patients turned away from hospitals because they couldn't pay the 5 euro entrance fee, sent away without needed medicine because cash-starved clinics had run out, and more.

It has been an endless nightmare, yet Greece's political establishment, determined to stay within Europe and fearing the consequences of default and exit from the euro, stayed with the program year after year. Finally, the Greek public could take no more. As creditors demanded yet more austerity - on a scale that might well have pushed the economy down by another 8 percent and driven unemployment to 30 percent - the nation voted in Syriza, a genuinely left-wing (as opposed to

center-left) coalition, which has vowed to change the nation's course. Can Greek exit from the euro be avoided?

Yes, it can. The irony of Syriza's victory is that it came just at the point when a workable compromise should be possible.

The key point is that exiting the euro would be extremely costly and disruptive in Greece, and would pose huge political and financial risks for the rest of Europe. It's therefore something to be avoided if there's a halfway decent alternative. And there is, or should be.

By late 2014 Greece had managed to eke out a small "primary" budget surplus, with tax receipts exceeding spending, excluding interest payments. That's all that creditors can reasonably demand, since you can't keep squeezing blood from a stone. Meanwhile, all those wage cuts have made Greece competitive on world markets - or would make it competitive if some stability can be restored.

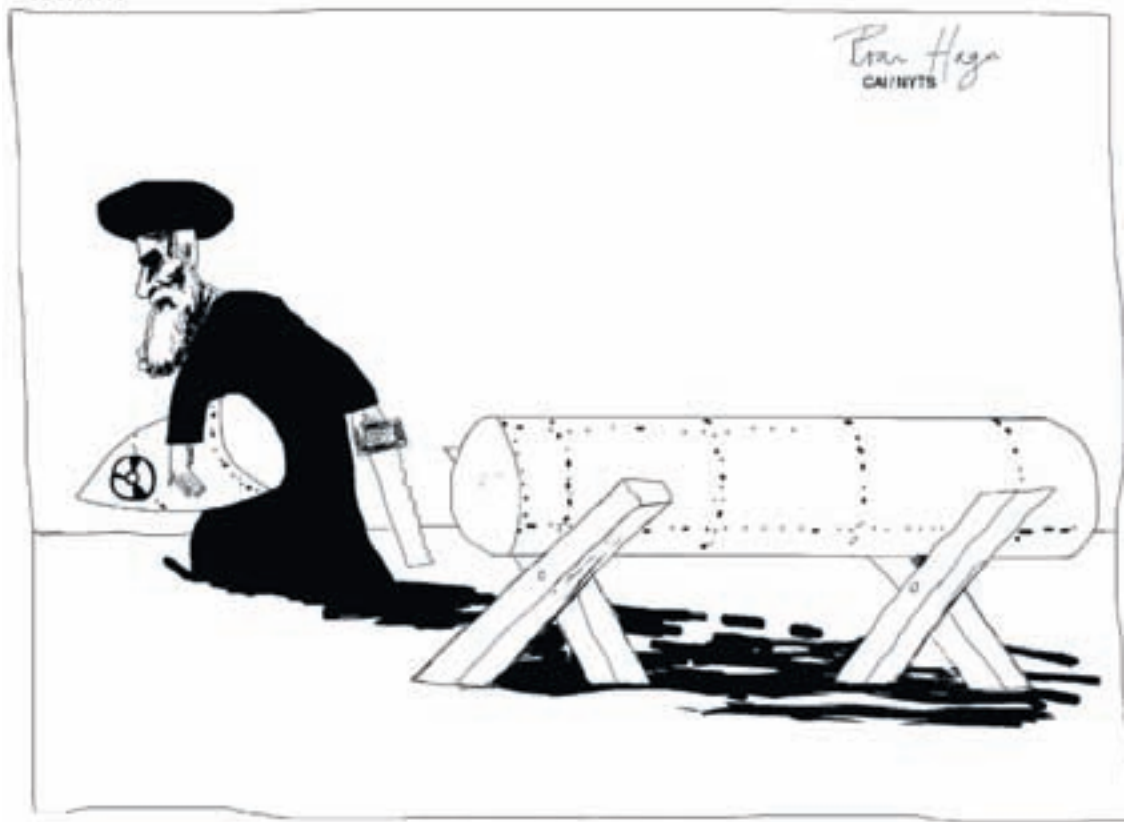
The shape of a deal is therefore clear: basically, a standstill on further austerity, with Greece agreeing to make significant but not ever-growing payments to its creditors. Such a deal would set the stage for economic recovery, perhaps slow at the start, but finally offering some hope.

But right now that deal doesn't seem to be coming together. Maybe it's true, as the creditors say, that the new Greek government is hard to deal with. But what do you expect when parties that have no previous experience in governing take over from a discredited establishment?

More important, the creditors are demanding things - big cuts in pensions and public employment - that a newly elected government of the left simply can't agree to, as opposed to reforms like an improvement in tax enforcement that it can. And the Greeks, as I suggested, are all too ready to see these demands as part of an effort either to bring down their government or to make their country into an example of what will happen to other debtor countries if they balk at harsh austerity.

To make things even worse, political uncertainty is hurting tax receipts, probably causing that hard-earned primary surplus to evaporate. The sensible thing, surely, is to show some patience on that front: If and when a deal is reached, uncertainty will subside and the budget should improve again. But in the pervasive atmosphere of distrust, patience is in short supply.

It doesn't have to be this way. True, avoiding a full-blown crisis would require that creditors advance a significant amount of cash, albeit cash that would immediately be recycled into debt payments. But consider the alternative. The last thing Europe needs is for fraying tempers to bring on yet another catastrophe, this one completely gratuitous. □



America Asks: Has the NRA Won?



CHARLES M. BLOW
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It is now fair to ask whether the National Rifle Association is winning - or has in fact won - this era of the gun debate in this country. Gun control advocates have tried to use the horror that exists in the wake of mass shootings to catalyze the public into action around sensible gun restrictions. But rather than these tragedies being a cause for pause in ownership of guns, gun ownership has spiked in the wake of these shootings.

A striking report released Friday by the Pew Research Center revealed that "for the first time, more Americans say that protecting gun rights is more important than controlling gun ownership, 52 percent to 46 percent." One of the reasons cited was Americans' inverse understanding of the reality and perception of crime in this country. As the report spells out, in the 1990s, people's perception of the prevalence of crime fell in concert with actual instances of violent crime. But since the turn of the century, things have changed: "A majority of Americans (63 percent) said in a Gallup survey last year that crime was on the rise, despite crime statistics holding near 20-year lows."

Furthermore, it used to be that the people most worried about crime favored stricter gun control, but "now, they tend to de-

sire keeping the laws as they are or loosening gun control. In short, we are at a moment when most Americans believe crime rates are rising and when most believe gun ownership - not gun control - makes people safer."

The report adds: "Why public views on crime have grown more dire is unclear, though many blame it on the nature of news coverage, reality TV and political rhetoric. Whatever the cause, this trend is not without consequence. Today, those who say that crime is rising are the most opposed to gun control: Just 45 percent want to see gun laws made more strict, compared with 53 percent of those who see crime rates as unchanged or dropping."

Another cause is most likely the intermingling of politics and high-profile crimes. As The Christian Science Monitor reported in 2012: "As sure as summer follows spring, gun sales rise after a mass shooting. It happened after the shooting rampage at Columbine High School in Colorado in 1999. It happened after the Tucson, Arizona, shootings last year that killed six. Now, after the killing of 12 people last week at a movie theater in Aurora, Colorado, gun sales are spiking again - not just in Colorado but around the country."

It continued: "Self-protection is part of the reason. But a bigger factor, say gun dealers, is fear of something else: politicians, specifically, their ability to enact restrictions on gun ownership and acquisition of ammunition. When a high-profile shooting takes place, invariably the airwaves are full of talk about gun control." It appears to be an extreme example of unintended consequences, or a boomerang: The more people talk about gun control, the more people buy guns. And not only do gun sales surge, but apparently so does NRA membership. As The Huffington Post reported in 2013: "The National Rifle Association's paying

member ranks have grown by 100,000 in the wake of the December school shooting in Newtown, Connecticut, the organization told Politico."

The report continued: "In the week after the shooting, Fox News reported that the NRA was claiming an average of 8,000 new members a day. High-profile mass shootings are often followed by periods of increased interest in the NRA, but representatives said this rate was higher than usual."

It was after the Newtown shooting that President Barack Obama established a task force, led by Vice President Joe Biden, to develop a proposal to reduce gun violence, which the president said he intended to "push without delay."

Those proposals, including expanded background checks (which were characterized as "misguided" by the NRA's Chris Cox) and a ban on some semiautomatic weapons, were roundly defeated in the Senate, although polls showed about 90 percent public approval for expanded background checks.

In fact, this month The Washington Times reported: "The American firearms industry is as healthy as ever, seeing an unprecedented surge that has sent production of guns soaring to more than 10.8 million manufactured in 2013 alone - double the total of just three years earlier."

It continued: "The 2013 surge - the latest for which the government has figures - came in the first full year after the December 2012 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School, signaling that the push for stricter gun controls, strongly backed by President Obama, did little to chill the industry despite the passage of stricter laws in states such as New York, Maryland, Connecticut and California."

One may begrudge and bemoan the fact, but it is hard to deny it: The NRA appears to be winning this round. □

Cecily Strong: From 'SNL' Hot Seat to Trial by Fire

DAVE ITZKOFF

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NEW YORK - Sitting in her tiny dressing room at "Saturday Night Live" on a Friday afternoon, Cecily Strong was trying to keep her mind off a big looming commitment.

Not the impersonation of Marion Cotillard she was about to rehearse - that she could handle.

still showing respect for elected officials.

And, oh yes, she must follow a routine performed by President Barack Obama.

As Joel McHale, the host of last year's dinner, said in an interview, when he completed his duties, "the relief afterwards was measurable on a Geiger counter."

humor."

"She's the nice girl who's cutting in a way that you don't really notice until later," said Parsons, the White House correspondent for Tribune Publishing.

Parsons said she wanted to see "a different perspective" at the hosting dais.

"If every year, for too many years,

he said, have all rated "a solid B-plus, A-minus."

"People are really there to see the president," he added, "so even if you're Jay Leno or somebody at the top of your game, you're not the most interesting person there that night."

Cody Keenan, Obama's chief speechwriter, said in an interview that the president provides no guidelines or restrictions on what the host can joke about. "There's no shortage of material when you have a bunch of politicians and media figures with big egos in a room," Keenan said. "The president can take it. He loves it."

Obama's own routine, Keenan said, is overseen by speechwriter David Litt with input from former Obama speechwriters Jon Favreau and Jon Lovett, political strategist David Axelrod, the former White House adviser Dan Pfeiffer and Tommy Vietor, a former National Security Council spokesman.

Jokes are batted around over email, with Obama weighing in up to the very last moment.

In 2011, Keenan said, Obama excised a "not very good Osama bin Laden joke" that would have been delivered one day before he announced the U.S. military mission that eliminated the al-Qaida leader. "He was like, 'Let's just take out bin Laden,'" Keenan recalled Obama instructing. "And then he did."

McHale, the star of "Community" and "The Soup," said he had been advised by past dinner hosts to bring as much material as possible, and not to duplicate topics covered by the president.

Even as he sat next to Michelle Obama at last year's dinner, McHale said, he was still revising his stand-up act. "The first lady looked at me like, 'What are you doing?'" McHale said. "I'm like, 'I'm ripping out jokes that your husband just told.'"

Strong is working with writers from "Weekend Update" and Jimmy Fallon's "Tonight Show," among other NBC colleagues, to create her routine. Understandably, she did not want to reveal too many specifics, but she said she wanted to bring her "silly sensibility" to the show.

Pointing to the example of her "SNL" predecessors Amy Poehler and Tina Fey, three-time co-hosts of the Golden Globes, Strong said she wanted to say "a couple very pointed things, to make some points that are my own opinions, but still try to go after everybody - not in a mean way, necessarily."

"There won't be blood afterwards," she said. "Unless I trip and fall, which I'm still worried about." □



Cecily Strong, a Saturday Night Live cast member, at the show's studios in New York, April 9, 2015. Strong, the 31-year-old comic actor and SNL regular, will take center stage at the Washington Hilton as host of the White House Correspondents' Association dinner on Saturday, April 25, 2015. (Todd Heisler/The New York Times)

But on Saturday, Strong, a 31-year-old comic actor, will take center stage at the Washington Hilton as the host of the White House Correspondents' Association dinner, and she was justifiably nervous.

"I truly had days where I'm like, I wish I could disappear today," said a deceptively upbeat Strong. "Because there's no way to back out of it."

This annual gathering of journalists, politicians and celebrities has become a marquee event for the performer who delivers its closing monologue. Strong will be only the second female comedian to host it in more than 20 years, and the first since Wanda Sykes in 2009.

No matter who gets the nod, it's an assignment that almost never results in universal praise. It is more like the comedic equivalent of an Evel Knievel motorcycle stunt, an act of boldness that can end in a fiery wreck.

The host must play to both the dinner's in-person guests and its television viewers; zing Democrats and Republicans with equal zest; and speak satirical truth to power while

Still, Strong said it was a challenge she felt she had to face. "I've done a lot of things that have scared me, and they turned out OK," she said.

Strong, a veteran of Chicago's Second City and iO comedy theaters, is now in her third season at "SNL." There, she has become known for characters like the Girl You Wish You Hadn't Started a Conversation With at a Party, and one of a pair of barely coherent former porn stars she portrays with Vanessa Bayer.

She also spent one season as a co-anchor of the show's "Weekend Update" desk, a seat it was announced she was losing just as she was approached about the Washington dinner.

Strong said she was unhappy about how the news media covered her "Weekend Update" exit, but that the transition itself had been "actually a happy thing for me," allowing her to participate in more sketches and character pieces on the show.

Christi Parsons, the president of the White House Correspondents' Association, said she selected Strong this year for her "heartland brand of

you have the same late-night middle-aged white guys up there talking, then maybe it's possible you're not getting a wide range of perspectives," Parsons said.

As far back as the 1940s and '50s, the dinner featured performers like Bob Hope, Frank Sinatra and Milton Berle. In the modern era it has favored late-night comics like Jay Leno and Conan O'Brien.

A watershed moment came in 2006 when Stephen Colbert, in the guise of his blowhard pundit character, delivered to President George W. Bush what sounded nominally like a speech of praise but was actually a biting critique.

After that, "a recalibration" occurred, said Patrick Gavin, the director of "Nerd Prom," a documentary about the correspondents' dinner. Later comedians have played it safer, and "figured out the right tone," said Gavin, a former reporter for Politico.

"As a result, you get fewer bombs, but also you get fewer home runs," he said. Recent performers like Seth Meyers, Jimmy Kimmel and O'Brien,